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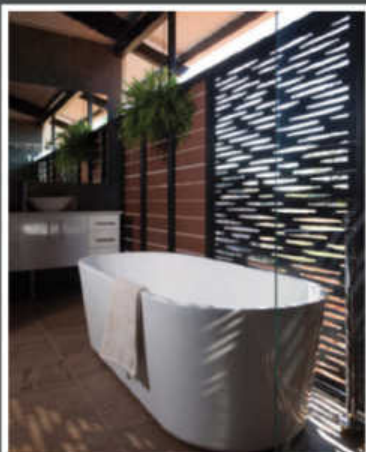
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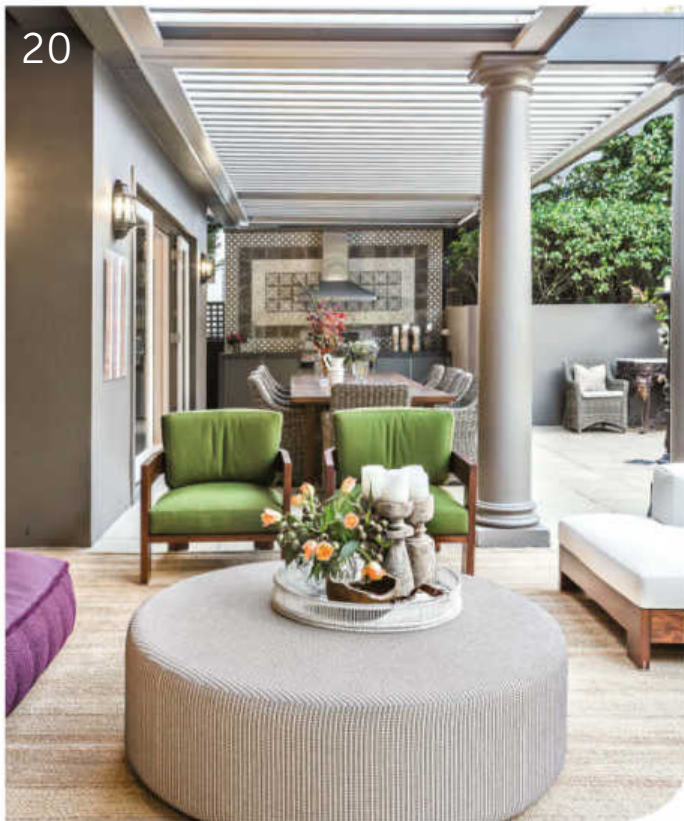
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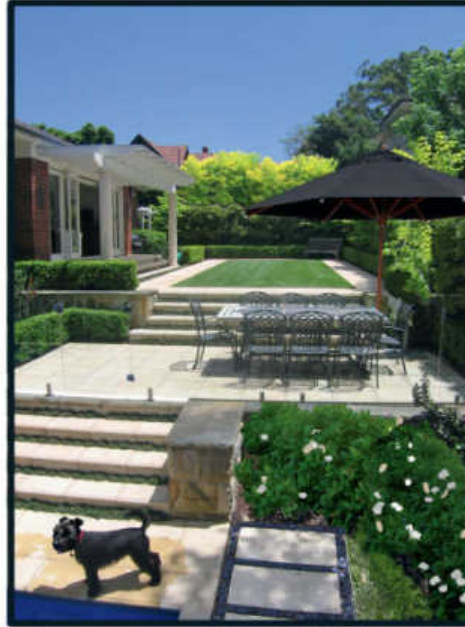
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designs for outdoor living



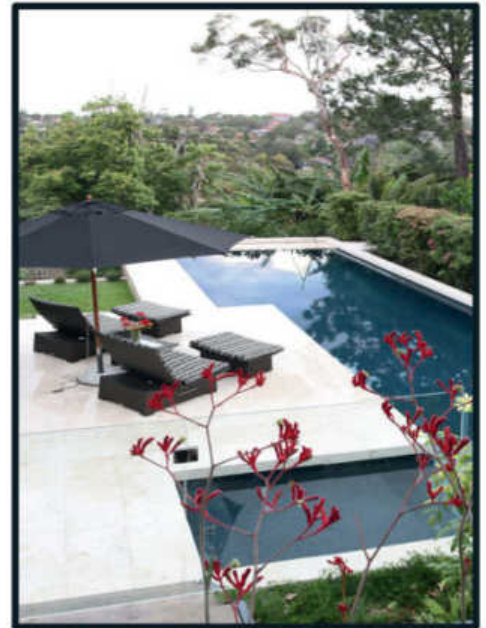
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FROM THE EDITOR



As summer approaches each year, I get a little flutter of excitement. It takes me back to my childhood when summers were spent on the beautiful beaches near my home on the South Coast of NSW or in the backyards of family and friends.

Outdoor spaces have certainly come a long way since then. One of the biggest differences is the focus on decorating outdoor areas in the same way you would your interiors. An increasing number of people are using outdoor rooms to reflect their personal style and the results are impressive. More than just a container to house your plants, pots and planters have evolved, too, providing another way to inject style into your outdoor space. Our pots and planters feature provides information on different types and their suitability to your outdoor space.

More recently, our humble backyards have been transformed into fully fledged outdoor rooms with all the bells and whistles, many including a fully functional outdoor kitchen. Our outdoor cooking feature offers practical advice on designing your alfresco kitchen and selecting the right barbecue for the space.

Our inspiration features this issue include a vivacious Palm Springs-inspired project designed by interior designer, Massimo Speroni. As well as an abundance of colour, it features modern and vintage pieces with a touch of Hollywood glamour. In South Yarra, we go behind the scenes of a light-filled terrace featured in *The Block*. Northern Beaches couple, Josh and Charlotte, drew on Scandinavian and Australian influences, incorporating plenty of warm timber and soft, contemporary furnishings. Our projects this issue certainly cater to a range of different styles and tastes.

With plenty to get your creative juices flowing, from expert advice to exceptional projects from the stars of the landscaping industry, I hope you're inspired to partake in some outdoor projects in the warmer weather and really make the most of your outdoor space.

Enjoy your summer.

An increasing number of people are
using outdoor rooms to
reflect their personal style and
the results are impressive

April Ossington,
Editor

April

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A TROPICAL ESCAPE AT HOME

An outdoor space combines home-based practicalities with overseas getaway-style luxury

Words John Storch Photography A Total Concept







Incorporating a simple and stylish cabana and adjacent swimming pool in this contemporary native tropical garden, A Total Concept has created a spectacular outdoor room for relaxing and socialising for the owners of this lower North Shore property in Sydney.

The cabana has been designed to sit in an existing undercroft area beneath an elevated driveway and garage, which dictated the height of the pool to allow a fusion of the two areas. Simple clean lines and large, full-width-opening concertinaed doors integrate the cabana with the swimming pool. The cabana provides the perfect shaded entertaining area for young children and also offers a place where adults can relax with their friends while supervising little ones.

The north-west aspect of the property provides sun all day and shelter from the strong southerly storms, and allows an unusual contemporary native tropical garden to flourish

The cabana has a waterproof membrane on all walls, floor and ceiling, so wet feet and water fights are not an issue. The waterproofing also resolves the issue of water penetration from the overhead concrete driveway, from rising damp and from behind existing rear retaining walls that act as cabana walls.

For outdoor entertaining, a wet drinks bar, barbecue and kitchenette with built-in cabinetry, a fully appointed bathroom and shower to the rear plus a generous all-weather lounge setting are incorporated. The cabana also doubles as a rumpus room for the children, with a large flat-screen television, stereo system, snooker table and air hockey table available, making it the hub for socialising in the neighbourhood.

At night, the outdoor room is well lit with lamps and LED ceiling lighting. Together with energy-efficient LED lighting throughout the garden areas, this creates mood effects with washes of light and dancing shadows over the swimming pool.

This design by A Total Concept also includes a beautiful overflow pool with shimmering water that reflects the sky by day and the cabana lights at night, and contrasts elegantly with the blond cabana flooring, poolside paving and surrounding gardens.

The pool's underwater bench doubles as informal seating within the pool, and with heated spa jets incorporated in the backrest, provides the perfect place for parents to relax and chat. The underwater bench also acts as a safe haven for young children in the pool. ➤



The north-west aspect of the property provides sun all day and shelter from strong southerly storms, and allows an unusual contemporary native tropical garden to flourish. The garden contains an eclectic mix of coastal rosemary, grevilleas, red cordylines, frangipanis, cannas, ginger and philodendrons.

This project, designed and project managed by A Total Concept Landscape Architects & Swimming Pool Designers, integrates the cabana, pool and tropical gardens to blend seamlessly to create a stunning outdoor room. It evokes the ambience of a holiday at home for family fun and entertaining, and creates a private retreat where the family can escape the stresses of work at the end of the day. 🌿

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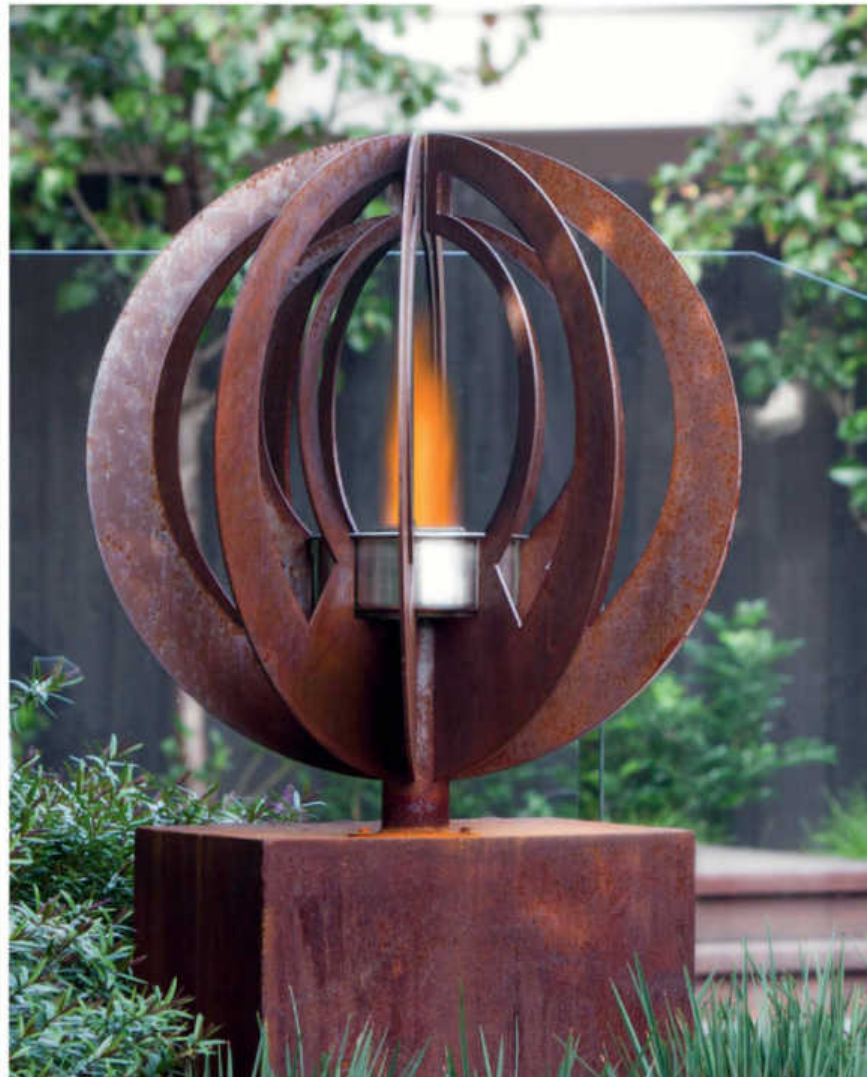
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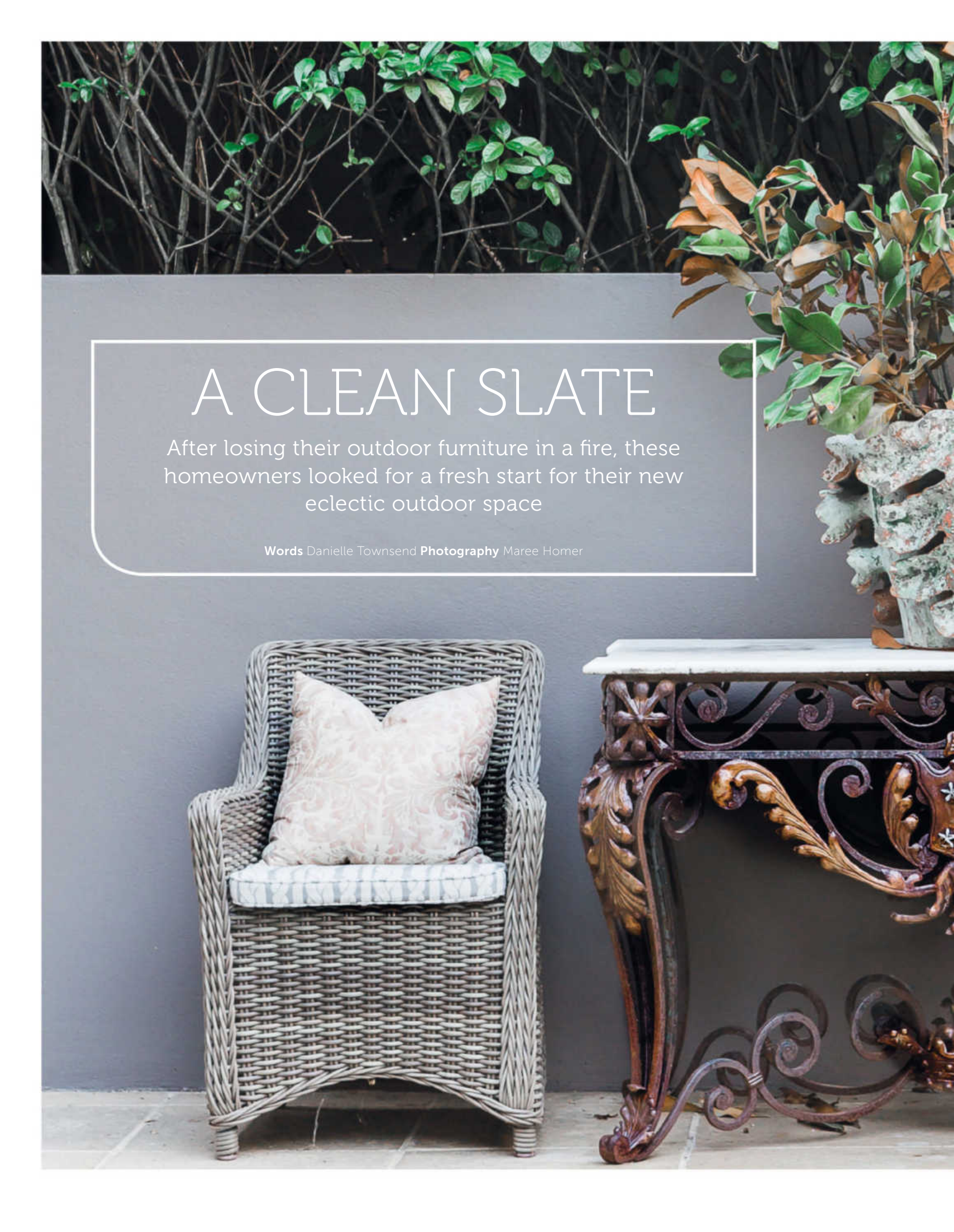


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A CLEAN SLATE

After losing their outdoor furniture in a fire, these homeowners looked for a fresh start for their new eclectic outdoor space

Words Danielle Townsend **Photography** Maree Homer





ABOVE Finishing touches including candles, vases and flowers create a cosy indoor feeling

Following a fire, an empty patio and no outdoor furniture was the starting point for this inviting outdoor project by Marylou Sobel, principal of Marylou Sobel Interior Design. She was asked to refurnish the outdoor patio with a dining area and build an outdoor kitchen/barbecue for these Eastern Suburbs homeowners, who envisaged a complete outdoor entertaining experience.

"They wanted a dining space for at least 12 people as well as a comfortable seating area for family and entertaining," says Marylou. "They wanted it to be luxurious and elegant, but relaxed too, and they requested outdoor furniture that emulated indoor furniture — including a rug. Tragically, they lost all their previous furniture in a fire so I started from scratch. This was a true clean slate. I wanted to create a very comfortable and luxurious environment with a relaxed feel, one that could stand the test of time and look as though it always belonged there."

Designed by Marylou and constructed by Mirtillo Constructions, the outdoor room now exudes a classic feel and the selection of furnishings brings an eclectic and contemporary element to the space.

"I had generous spaces to work with," says the designer. Marylou not only designed the entire outdoor area, but also selected all the furniture including the luxurious Paola Lenti



Marylou also designed the barbecue area and selected all the finishes, including the eye-catching tiled splashback behind the barbecue, which adds a design element to the space



These luxurious furniture pieces certainly create that sought after indoor/outdoor feeling



Outdoor Rooms



There's plenty of room to throw dinner parties in this outdoor space

ottoman, cushions and daybed, which is covered with botanic-inspired fabric. "The homeowners asked for outside colours to be used, with hints of purple. I chose white, green, purple and tones of orange so it would fit into the outside elements and work with the existing plants."

Finding outdoor furniture which offers the same level of comfort one might find indoors can be a challenge, but here, Marylou has injected comfort into the space with Minotti outdoor furniture and the Paola Lenti ottoman — pieces which are far from standard outdoor furniture in terms of function, comfort and aesthetics. Incorporating this furniture into the design played a part in Marylou's inspiration.

"My inspiration came from the garden, the lush greenery and the desire to use the Minotti outdoor sofas, which look like indoor furniture, and the Paola Lenti ottoman," says Marylou. "They are luxurious pieces of furniture and very comfortable."

Marylou also designed the barbecue area and selected all the finishes, including the eye-catching tiled splashback behind the barbecue, which adds a design element to the space. Positioned conveniently close to the barbecue is the wonderful bespoke aged-oak timber dining table and eight dining chairs — pieces that exude natural sophistication.

The existing concrete-type floor tiles on the patio were a problem and needed to be replaced. However, as they cover a



The botanic-inspired fabric on the daybed brings extra life to this area

vast space and were used around the entire property, including on a few balconies, the homeowners did not want to change them everywhere. So Marylou had the tiles professionally cleaned and selected an outdoor rug for the sitting area to partially cover them and to inject some cosiness.

With a barbecue and clearly defined dining and relaxation area, the revamped space is now a delight for the family every day. And Marylou is impressed with the fruits of her labour. "I love the whole space, the way it flows and the way the furniture — although quite eclectic — makes it so interesting," she says. "I especially love the Minotti furniture. This project is special because it's not the norm to have such a comprehensively furnished outdoor patio that emulates an indoor room. It sets it apart from most patio spaces so I believe it deserves a special mention." 🍷

Design Marylou Sobel Interior Design

Website marylousobel.com.au

Construction Mirtillo Constructions

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COOKING UP A STORM

Create an impressive cooking space
outdoors for all your family and entertaining needs

Words April Ossington

From humble beginnings that mostly involved throwing a snag on the barbie, outdoor cooking has grown in leaps and bounds over the past 10 years. These days you can cook anything from pizza to dessert in your outdoor kitchen and everything you need is right at your fingertips.

"Outdoor cooking has become more adventurous," says sales and marketing manager at Lifestyle BBQs, John McGran. "People want to create the exotic dishes they have enjoyed

while travelling overseas or at the wonderful international restaurants we have in Australia. The old snags and chops are the exception now rather than the standard offering."

Of course, this means more sophisticated cooking tools need to be utilised outdoors. "Creating these new dishes requires items such as wok burners and wood-fired pizza ovens," says John. "To make life easy, there are sinks, dishwashers and fridges — basically bringing the whole kitchen outdoors."





Image courtesy of
lifestylebbqs.com



SELECTING YOUR BARBECUE

First and foremost, John suggests choosing a barbecue that's Australian-made and built to last. While you might have to invest a little more, you will get greater value for money in the long run. "Don't buy online from someone who doesn't advertise a street address for their business," he warns. "Beware of gimmicks! The traditional units can often be the best. It might seem like a good idea in a brochure or online, but until you see one in operation, you won't know how it works."

When choosing between a freestanding or built-in unit, consider how permanent your living arrangements are. "The traditional freestanding barbecue still has a lot of merit," says John. You can adjust its positioning in the yard depending on the weather conditions, the position of the sun at a particular time of the day or even how many people are coming to lunch and the space you require. "A built-in is more appropriate if you have the ideal spot and intend to stay in that particular property for a while to maximise your return on the investment," he continues. ➤



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KITCHEN DESIGN TIPS

When designing an outdoor kitchen, it's important to consider its proximity to your indoor kitchen. Being close to the main kitchen can open up the possibility of shared services between the two areas, and perhaps eliminate the need for certain components like an outdoor refrigerator. On the other hand, some people may want their outdoor kitchen to be self-sufficient.

The aspect of the home should also be considered as it may determine the materials used or whether there is a need to incorporate awnings or screening into your space or provide individual covers for your appliances or hardware. For example, will your kitchen be in full sun for extensive periods of time or be exposed to high winds? "If you want a glass door bar fridge in the unit, make sure it's in a spot that won't get direct sunlight," advises John. "If it will be, you'll have to opt for a stainless-steel door fridge."



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Judging the suitability of the site is another important step. How will utilities be connected and will you connect gas or electricity? Is additional plumbing required and if so, will you require cold and hot water? "A lot of the plumbing and electrical considerations are best thought out before putting the services in," says John. "Order your outdoor kitchen before you have tradesmen locate those services. That way, they will go in the right spot."

To ensure your space is usable day and night, sufficient lighting should be an integral part of the design. The first area to consider in an outdoor kitchen is above the barbecue or cooktop. ➤



Image courtesy of
lifestylebbqs.com



Being able to see the food you're cooking properly is essential so that meats are cooked to the right temperature — particularly when preparing chicken or fish. In this instance, halogen task lighting is ideal as it is resilient in high temperatures. For covered outdoor kitchen and dining areas, consider installing a ceiling fan with a light fixture. This has the added bonus of repelling mosquitoes.

The functionality of your outdoor kitchen is of utmost importance. Here you should consider how much bench space you will require for food prep and the type of storage you will need. Think about the food you cook when you barbecue or eat outdoors — the barbecue you buy will depend on this. However, many modern barbecues are a jack of all trades when it comes to different cuisines. 🍷



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PALM SPRINGS GLAMOUR

Modern and sophisticated, this outdoor
space is ideal for summer nights

Words Annabelle Cloros Photography Stu Morley





Outdoor Rooms

Inspiration
Splash of Colour

When it comes to outdoor spaces, timber accents and greenery are often the go-to elements homeowners rely upon. But for this family, it was essential their outdoor entertainment area was just as glamorous as the vibrant interiors spearheaded by designer Massimo Speroni, who was tasked with injecting some wow factor into the space.

With a brief revolving around light and bright furnishings, Massimo's mission was to capture the essence of the homeowners. "I aimed to create a space that reflected the clients' personalities — bold and colourful, while maintaining an elegant and sophisticated atmosphere," he explains. ➤

"I aimed to create a space that reflected the clients' personalities — bold and colourful, while maintaining an elegant and sophisticated atmosphere" — Massimo Speroni



ABOVE A drinks cart ensures your glass is never empty

RIGHT A separate area outside is the perfect spot to enjoy a good book







Inspired by Palm Springs, the outdoor entertaining area features a pool and offers an oasis from the rest of the home that's visible from the French doors inside. "This generous outdoor space features one main central sitting area and two separate spaces either side of this, yet they are all open to one another and interconnected," explains Massimo. "By zoning this area, we were able to provide multiple seating solutions and flexibility to the homeowners when they use the lounge area for social gatherings or when keeping an eye on the kids playing by the pool."

Royal-blue drapes are a statement fixture within the space, and add privacy by completely closing or remaining open to frame the outdoor room. "Outdoor curtains not only inject a sense of glamour and grandness to the space, they also soften the outdoor architecture by making the area more inviting," continues Massimo. The room is furnished with citrus-coloured lounges, turquoise cushions, geometric rugs and round white coffee tables, as well as a hanging pod chair that's conveniently suspended right next to the drinks cart.

"The design style of this outdoor room is very much influenced by sunny Palm Springs and offers a combination of modern and vintage pieces with a touch of Hollywood glamour, creating laidback elegance," says Massimo. "Suited to the Australian climate and lifestyle, this 1930s style is brought to a contemporary setting with the use of copper accessories and modern outdoor fabric technology."

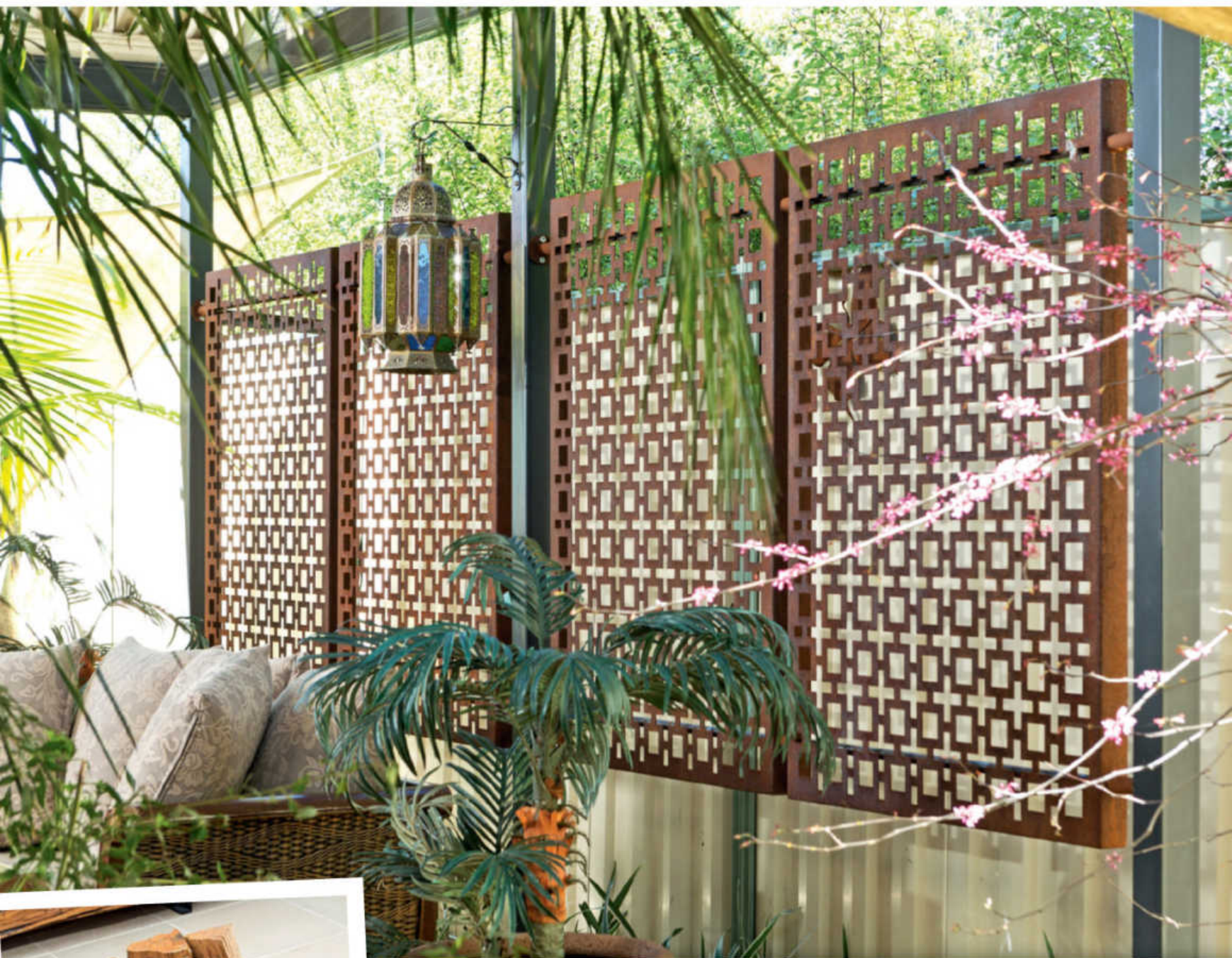
Marking itself as a space for entertaining, it's easy to imagine long summer nights spent outside, with ample room for family and friends to celebrate and quality spent time together. 🍹

Outdoor room design Massimo Speroni
Website massimointeriors.com.au

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INNER-CITY RETREAT

A closer look at David Franklin and his team's winning terrace on *The Block*

Words Annabelle Clóros **Photography** Tim Turner



Outdoor Rooms

When you're on *The Block*, there's no time to mess around. Impending deadlines constantly loom and creating picture-perfect spaces in short periods of time can be near-impossible for seasoned and unseasoned renovators alike. For All Stars Dea and Darren, calling in the help of Block veteran landscaping guru, David Franklin, was a must to ensure their outdoor terrace sat high and mighty above the rest, ultimately putting them at the top of the leader board with a perfect score of 30 out of 30.

Originally a dead zone, Dea and Darren's designated terrace area comprised leftover concrete space between the rear of the building and the back fence. Saving \$25,000 to complete the terrace overhaul, the team sought to create an area that maximised the space of the rear small courtyard while blending indoors and out, ensuring lots of light and fluidity between both areas. "The space is very enclosed and only visible from the rear of the apartments, so we wanted to create a very private sanctuary within an area that's surrounded by other apartment buildings," says David. ➤

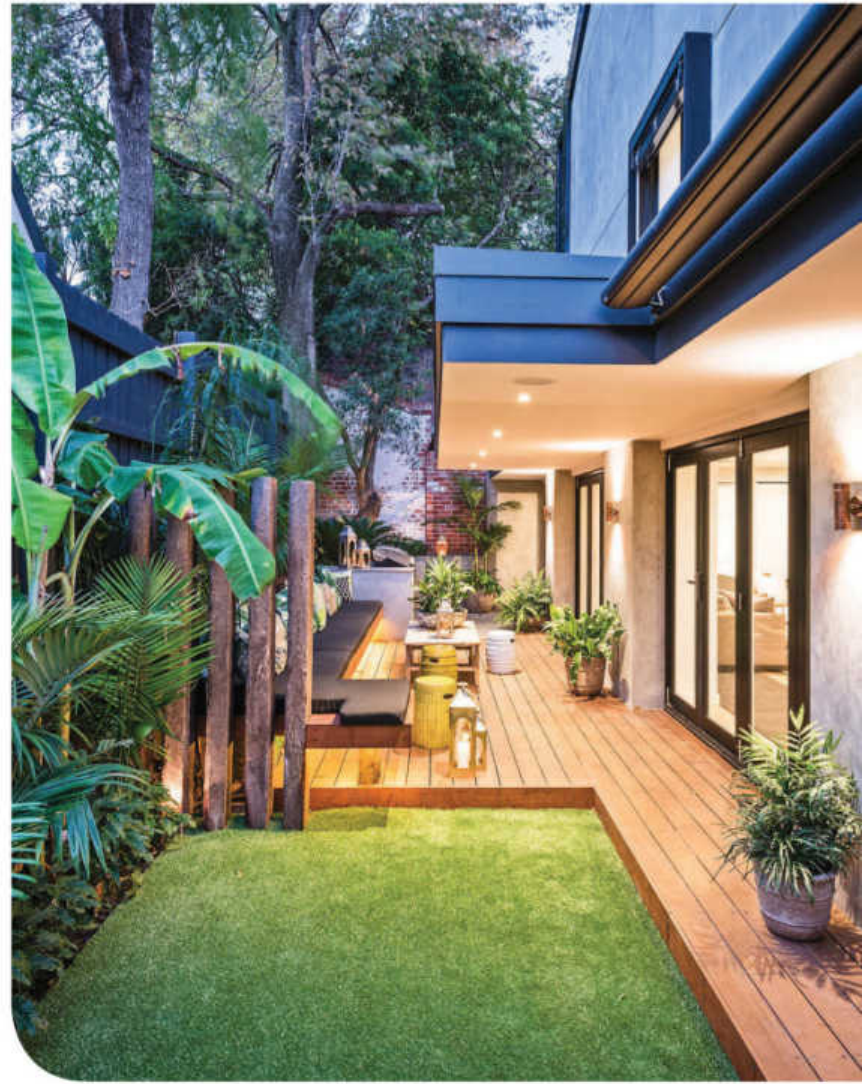




Inspiration
Top-notch Terrace

BELOW The seating area next to the barbecue is the ideal location for guests to socialise with the chef

Due to the narrow terrace, it was important to break up the space and encompass multiple functions, including a barbecue area, sitting area with outdoor lounge, and synthetic turf space to enjoy the morning sun. "Timber and plants were used to maximum effect to make the space feel lush and cosy," says David. "Paving and synthetic turf delineated the areas for relaxing and entertaining, and we worked with existing trees to ensure there were shady aspects that allowed light to stream into the living areas of the apartment." Cycads and palms were



used around the base of the large tree at the back of the space and across the back fence, along with feature pots and plants that would create intimacy and a sense of relaxation.

Access to the site was problematic as the landscaping team had to share entryways with other trades and, of course, a camera crew. "Access was impossible; materials were brought in through the apartment but because it was also being fully renovated, we were able to work around the building works," says David. Timber decking was also installed to extend the indoors outside and leads to the built-in outdoor lounge and entertaining space. And true to Dea's talents as the interiors queen, the connection between internal and external areas is evident with the selection of quality materials utilised, including leaf-motif cushions, a mixture of materials and a rustic timber table surrounded by colourful stools and planters.

With Neale Whitaker describing the space as "total luxury", it's clear why this terrace received the perfect score. From its multi-purpose areas that are clearly laid out, this really is a little slice of heaven in an inner-city location. 🌿

Outdoor room and garden design Franklin Landscape & Design
 Website franklinld.com

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My sculptures are the perfect combination of art and geometry. I have always wanted to create sculptures with purpose. Something that is aesthetically appealing during the day and more so once night falls. You can see illusions, shadow play and light patterns within my sculptures.

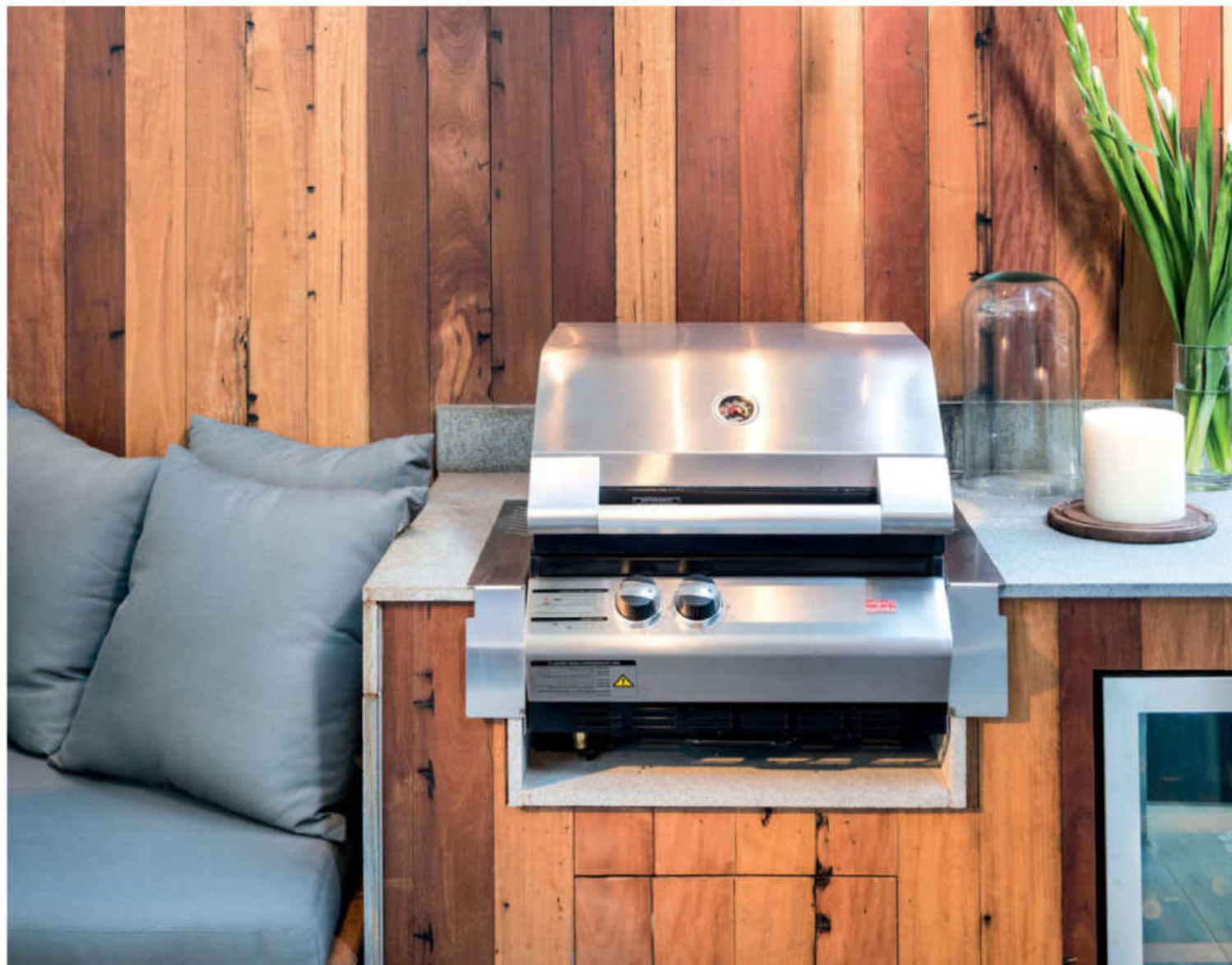


TOP OF THE BLOCK

We go behind the scenes of this light-filled terrace, which was showcased on hit renovation show, *The Block*

Words Annabelle Cloros **Photography** Tim Turner





You may have been wowed by the sprawling green wall or perhaps the outdoor entertaining/dining area. But opinions aside, it's safe to say this South Yarra apartment block is now a greener place thanks to Inge Jabara Landscapes, taken on for the job by Northern Beaches couple Josh and Charlotte. The aesthetic of the space revolves around Scandinavian and Australian influences — think lashings of timber combined with warm and soft furnishings.

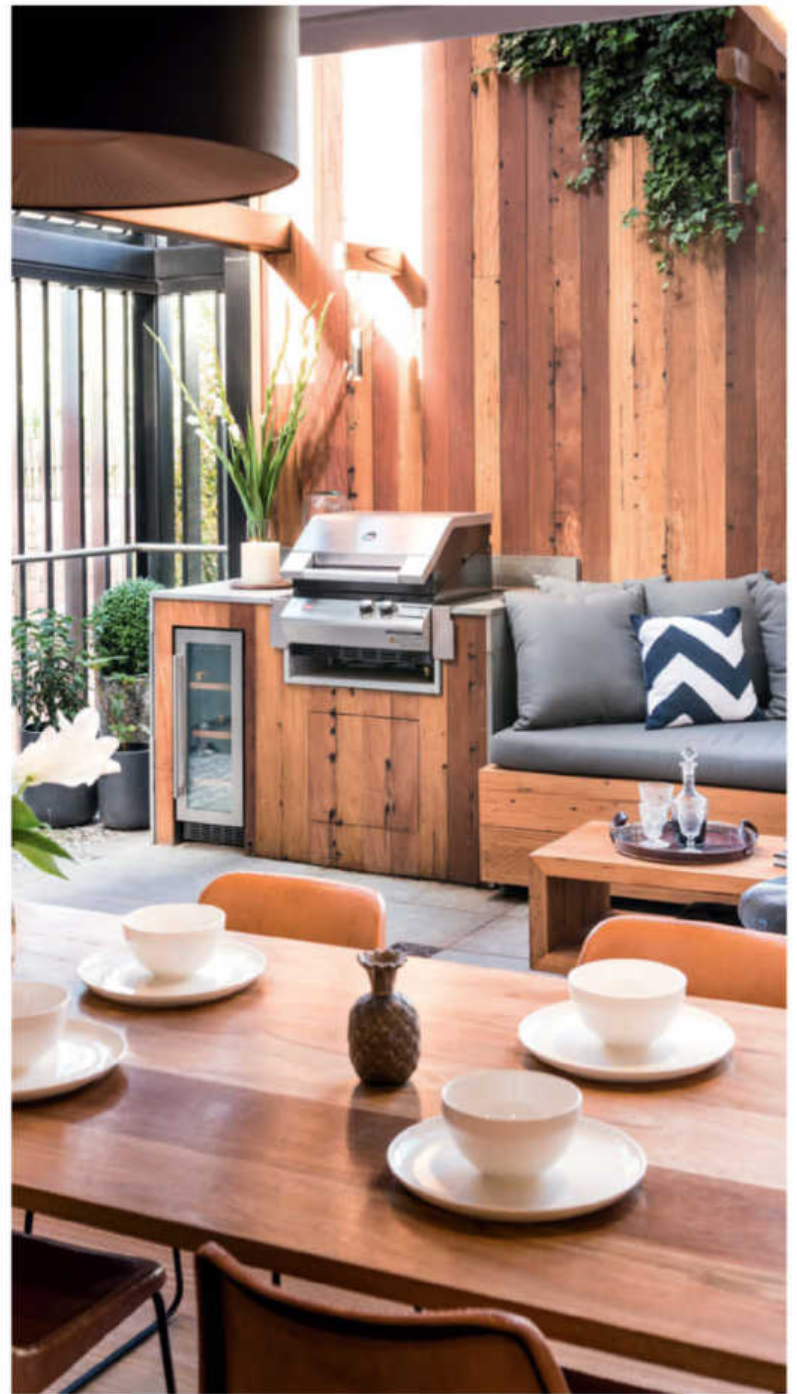
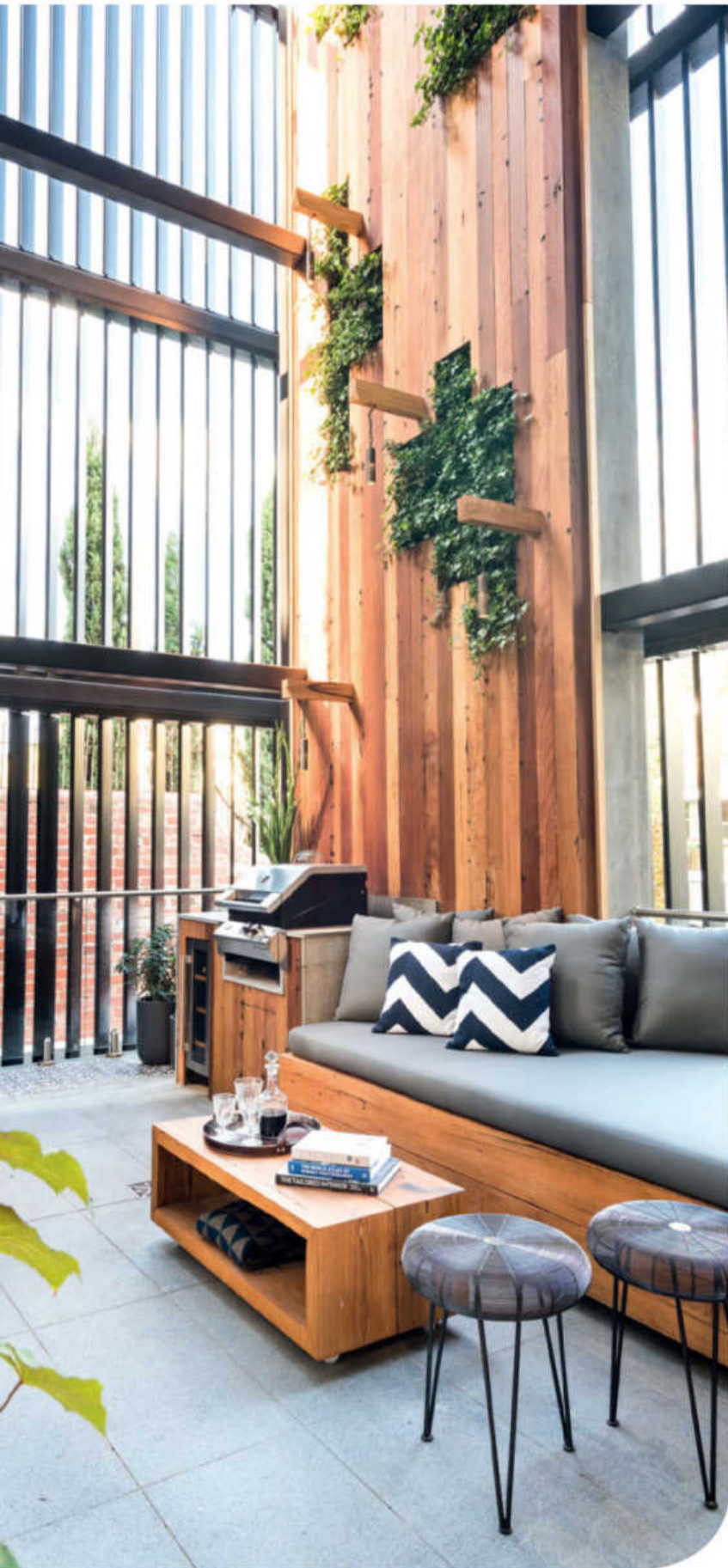
The area serves as the formal entrance to the apartment, the goal being to create maximum impact that would set the standard for the rest of the home. "South Yarra demands a touch of luxury and we wanted to design this on a whole new level," says Inge. "Having grown up around South Yarra, it was easy for me to design this space. It is minimal, however there's a wow factor when you're standing inside it." A seven-metre blackbutt timber wall embodies the aforementioned "wow factor".

Inge and her team encountered various challenges along the way, including being hit with tight and nearly impossible deadlines, unfinished walls, and the fact that their staircase (and access) was



“Having grown up around South Yarra, it was easy for me to design this space. It is minimal, however there's a wow factor when you're standing inside it” — Inge Jabara

RIGHT The sprawling green wall is a point of difference for this South Yarra apartment
FAR RIGHT A dining table outdoors is great for outdoor entertaining



taken away on day two of the build. But despite being faced with never-ending hurdles, the team persevered with the green wall, erecting scaffolding to install an automatic watering system and ivy that will continue to grow and cascade down the timber. "At night there is romantic lighting and a glow that can be seen from all levels," says Inge. "The cells that the plants are in will restrict their growth as there is only so much root room. I personally installed the irrigation system to make sure there would be no faults. As my client Josh said, 'It's *The Block* — there are always going to be challenges.'"

Equipped with a barbecue and wine fridge, sitting area and dining table, there's plenty of space for outdoor entertaining in this ➤



terrace that flows on nicely to the entry foyer of the apartment. *Prunus lusitanica*, box hedges, oak leaf hydrangeas and grape vine create a harmonious feel in the outdoor space, the greenery balancing with all the modern amenities you'd expect in an up-market terrace. "In this day and age apartments are getting smaller, however the green element is getting more vertical if we continue to make sure it is still a part of the project," says Inge.

Awarded an impressive 28.5 out of 30 for the reveal, Josh and Charlotte's terrace was only narrowly beaten by all stars Dea and Darren, who received the perfect score. The apartment

eventually sold for \$2.2 million, delivering a profit of \$810,000. It's safe to say this stunning terrace played a big role in enticing buyers to pay the big bucks to live in a slice of South Yarra paradise. 🌿

Design and construction Inge Jabara Landscapes
Website ingejabaralandscapes.com.au



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Outdoor Rooms

OPTICAL ILLUSION

A modern exterior is anything but the norm

Words Annabelle Cloros Photography Ben Connolly



The mountainous suburb of Buderim in Queensland is perhaps the least likely place you'd expect to find an ultra-modern home that sticks out like a sore thumb — in a good way. There's no Bali-esque sculptures or Buddha statues present in this outdoor area. Instead, a black and white exterior surrounded by nature reigns supreme.

Positioned down a steep slope sits an Ultraspace creation. With a dramatic monochrome exterior playing off against surrounding greenery, it's clear this abode, designed by Mark Gacesa of Ultraspace, is all about drama. The isolated location was deliberately chosen. "Even though it was always going to be tricky because the land was a steep slope, it seemed perfectly situated on a ridge with water running off from either side of the location," says Mark. "I was able to easily orientate the house north to capture the maximum benefits of the sun, and the chance of having neighbours was reduced because of the water run-off advantage."

Although the dwelling had to be a pole home due to the topography, Mark wanted the exterior to present a different impression. "I didn't want it to look or feel like a pole home from the front — I wanted it to be an illusion full of unexpected treats," he says. "I wanted it to have more of a luxury feel and I think we have achieved that. I wanted the house to be dramatic externally and also uniquely dramatic and stylish internally."

The black exterior is not paint, but coloured render, making the residence "sparkle like a jewel" when hit by the sun. The white exterior is also rendered, but with a smooth sanding patch polished with five coats of Ultra Gloss over the white render. "These two opposing colours are further pronounced by a natural timber-coloured panel lift door and contemporary entry portico columns," says Mark. "The rear of the house is slightly softer with off-white and a hint of green to nestle in among the trees."

Distinct, unique and signature to Ultraspace's aesthetic, this home is for those who like a little quirk when it comes to design. With its unassuming, modern exterior, this residence takes you on a journey that shows you the glamorous side of life. 🌿

Design Ultraspace

Website ultraspace.com.au





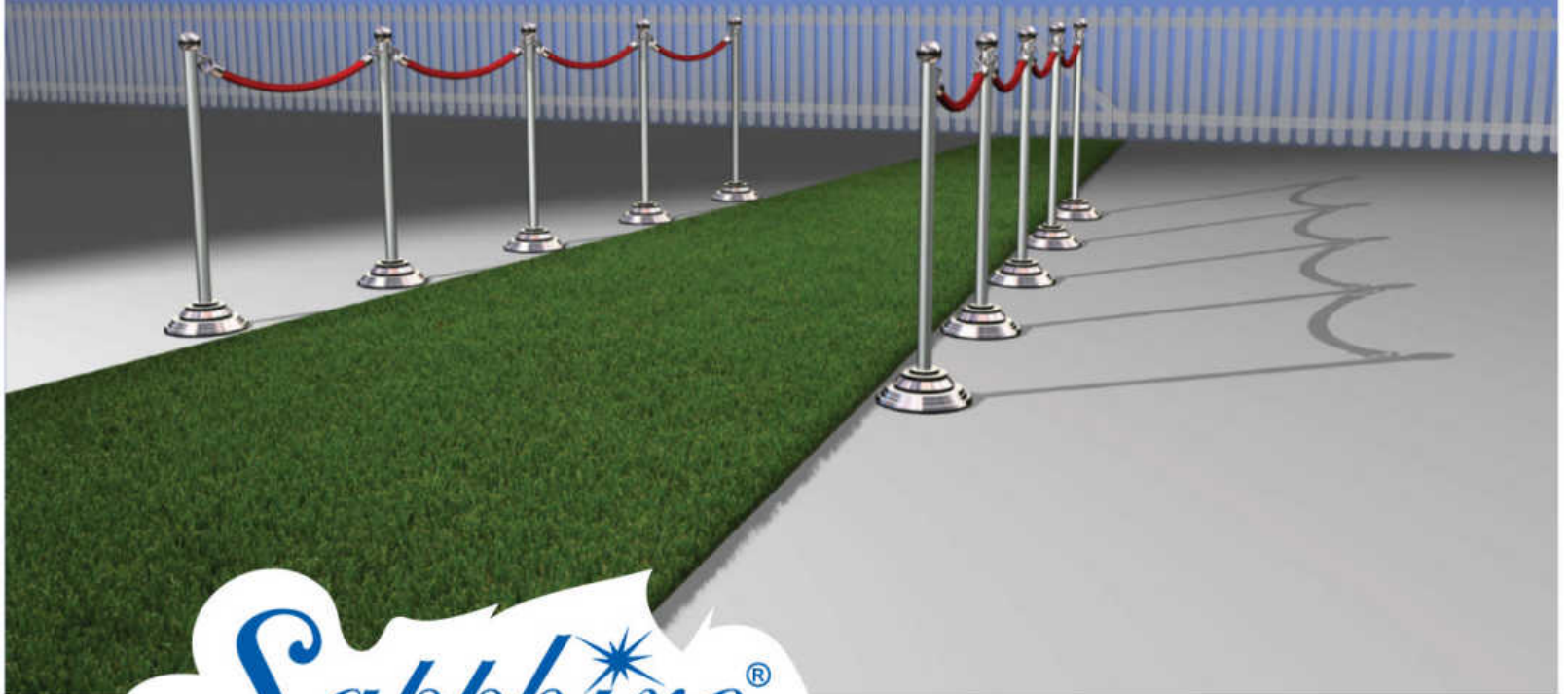
Inspiration
Modern Marvel

BELOW A pool table is a great design element that doubles as entertainment when guests come over



ABOVE LED lighting underneath the seating area is an Ultraspace signature

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PERFECT TRANSFORMATION

A contemporary design has given this Perth property a new lease on life and a welcoming entertaining area

Photography Ron Tan

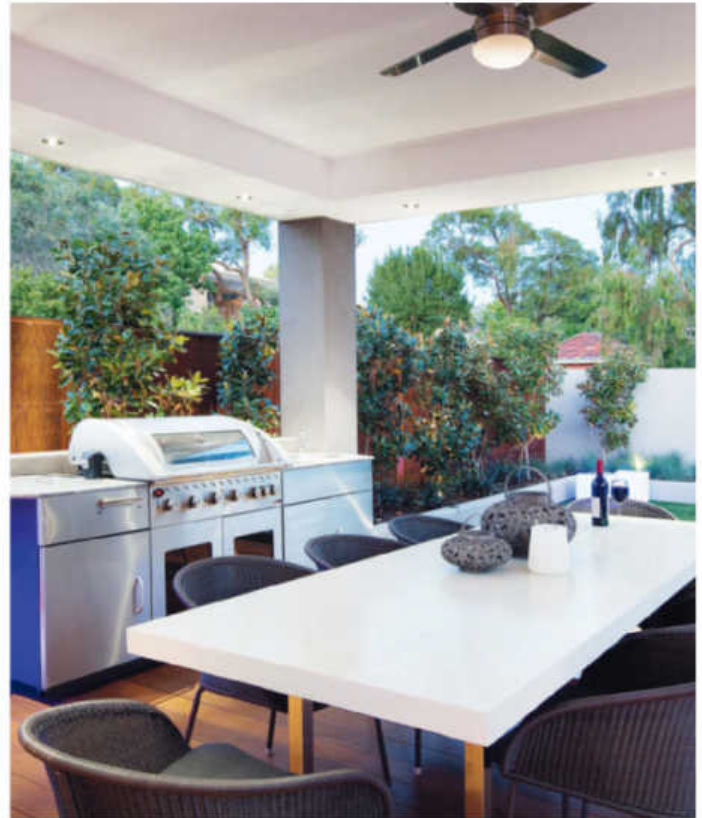


The owners of this property wanted a simple yet eye-catching outdoor space where they could relax and entertain. What they had was a tired-looking back garden and an outdated pool, so they turned to designer Denise Staffa of Outside In.

The showpiece of the totally transformed rear garden is the new alfresco entertaining area. Big enough for a 10-seater dining table, an outdoor kitchen and a lounge setting, the space flows from the family room inside the home, creating a seamless indoor-outdoor connection. Outdoor access from the interior kitchen was also improved with the introduction of a large "floating" washed aggregate concrete step.

"The owners had renovated the inside of their home, giving it a modern, sleek look, so I carried this through to the outside with the subtle use of equally contemporary elements. This extended to convincing the owners to render the back of the home so it would blend with the outdoor decor and the newly built structures," explains Denise.

The new structures include boundary walls and planter boxes, which provide elevation to the garden, and a daybed constructed near the pool using the same washed aggregate concrete used for the floating step. To give the existing fibreglass pool a new lease on life, the interior surface was recoated and the brick paving replaced by washed aggregate poured paving. ➤







Access wasn't required around the entire pool so this allowed for the inclusion of soft foliage and lush screen plantings to act as a backdrop to the overall space. In addition, a large curved planter box was created to house the owners' favourite plant, the frangipani, and an existing ponytail palm was transplanted and given pride of place in a cut-out in the new deck.

"The owners had a piece of stunning bamboo-inspired artwork inside their home and from the location of the artwork you could view the blank wall near the kitchen servery window. I designed the light box to replicate the exact design of the interior artwork and act as a feature, day and night," says Denise. Adding to the night-time effect are the LED floating pool balls and the LED cubes, all of which are available for purchase from

Outside In, as are architectural laser-cut screens and light boxes in an array of designs and colours.

This garden proved such a resounding success that it was the winner of the Designer Residential 250-500sqm category and a finalist in the Contractor Residential More Than \$150,000 category in the 2012 Landscape Industries Association of Western Australia's Awards of Excellence. 🌿

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MATERIALS MATTER

The right choice can enhance your plants
and add style to your space

Words April Ossington







Outdoor pots and planters come in a range of shapes, sizes and materials and are a great way to house your plants and add to the aesthetics of your space, but not all of them are created equal. Director of Martin Kellock Pots & Planters, Martin Kellock, discusses the different types and their suitability to different areas in your outdoor room.



COMPOSITE PREMIUM LIGHTWEIGHT

"There are many types of lightweight materials available, but a majority aren't durable, which is why it is important to understand the difference," explains Martin. His top pick for durability is "glass-fibre-reinforced cement", commonly known as GRC, but he suggests the process in which it is made is almost as important as the material itself.

"Even the use of premium-grade Portland cement and special fibres, combined with the latest advances in nano-technology, are not enough without attention to detail in the manufacturing and quality control process," he adds. "This product can be more expensive than other lightweight products, but can be relied on to last for many years longer than cheaper fibre clay and polyresin."

Unlike ceramic pots, GRC isn't limited by kiln size and can be made to any size while being lighter than ceramic, metal or concrete. "This material is suitable for classical and contemporary ranges and as GRC pots are lightweight, they are well suited to balconies and rooftops," says Martin. Suitable in all weather conditions and most applications, these pots can also be used indoors if sealed properly.

CERAMIC

Glazed ceramic is the most traditional material used for pottery and can last for hundreds of years if fired at a high temperature. "The main drawback of this material is that it is relatively fragile compared with many lightweight materials," says Martin. "The size of a pot is limited by the size of the kiln it is fired in. In addition, this material is not really suitable for making large square and rectangular pots as they are not able to dry evenly."

Commonly used throughout history for classical applications, ceramic has evolved to suit modern aesthetics with different shapes and colours. "In the mid-90s there was a massive growth in the availability on the local market," says Martin. Australia's proximity to Asia and its outdoor lifestyle meant there was an influx of pots imported from places like China, Vietnam and Malaysia.

While Italian terracotta pots dominated the marketplace for many years, people began to seek a fresh look. "A craze for the new brightly coloured blue, green and ox-blood glazes was followed by more rustic 'dug up from the sea' glazes and later, the stronger atomic red, green, orange and yellow," continues Martin.

While unglazed ceramic pots have never gone out of style, they were overshadowed for many years by the variety of glazed versions available. "Recently, there has been a resurgence of unglazed planters that feature coloured clay and textured finishes," says Martin.

Ceramic is suitable for most applications, but care must be taken when exposing low-fired pots to frosty conditions as sub-zero temperatures can result in cracking.



COMPOSITE AND COMPOSITE LIGHTWEIGHT

Composite pots include those made from concrete or low-grade GRC. "These contain a higher ratio of cement to fibre, resulting in a much heavier product," explains Martin. These pots are suitable for all applications except balconies and rooftops due to their weight.

Composite lightweight can include a range of materials from cheap but low-quality fibreclay though to polyresin, fibreglass and standard-grade GRC. "These may have some of the durability characteristics of the premium GRC, but lack its weight-to-strength ratio and refinement," explains Martin.



Geo Rok black Richmond bowl from martinkellolockpots.com.au

METAL

"This covers a wide range of styles, from classical cast iron through to contemporary planters made from Corten steel," says Martin. The heavy and impervious nature of the material makes planters made from steel suitable for public areas or an unfenced front yard."

STONE

"Pots made out of stone are extremely heavy and can only be made in square and rectangular shapes," reveals Martin. Their durability and weight mean they are highly suitable for public areas as they are not easily stolen or moved. ■

POLYETHYLENE RESIN

Made from a type of plastic material that is extremely light, shock-proof, UV-resistant and recyclable, polyethylene resin pots are suitable for indoors and out. "Generally, the nature of the material makes them suited to contemporary shapes and environments," says Martin. "They can be used in exposed, windy situations with the addition of sand or gravel inside the bottom."



Pietro Stoneware gloss orange Luma pot from martinkellolockpots.com.au

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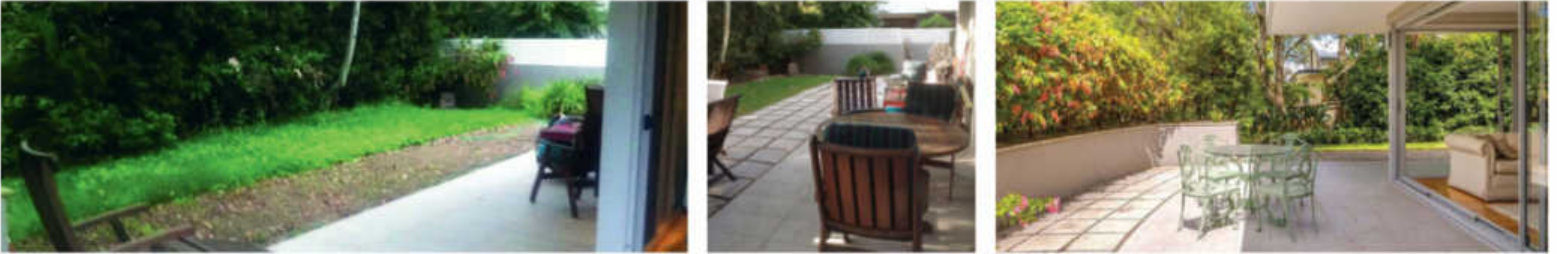


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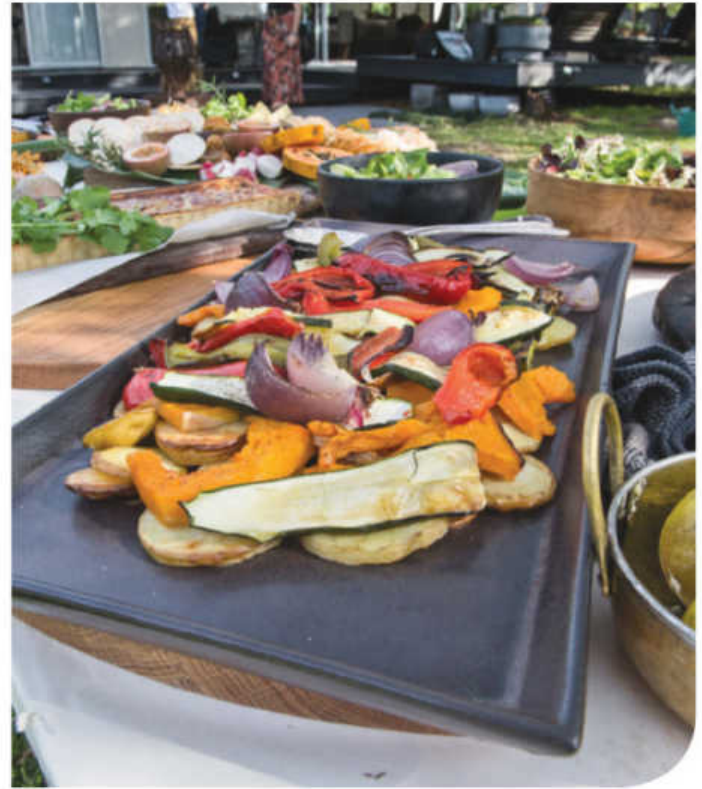
DESIGN A LIFE

Tai Schaffler has created a life that perfectly serves her goals and dreams

Words Tracey Hordern Photography Mireille Merlet







Tai Schaffler's heart has always been firmly rooted in the countryside. However, this New Zealander's achievements and aspirations are very much big city. Based in south-east Queensland in the beautiful valley of Tallebudgera, Tai operates her international homewares brand, Bandhini, in a setting that could only be described as idyllic. Tai's passion for good design that is also ethically and ecologically responsible can be attributed to decades of travel and living in countries where a healthy environment dictates wellbeing.

When Tai and Andrew Zdanowicz — her equally talented designer partner — first came across their hinterland property, a certain tree caught Tai's eye. Fondly named Ralph, this beautiful 240-year-old western red cedar ironically survived due to asymmetry. Historically, the stunning native cedar trees were decimated on Australia's East Coast in the 1800s by the ➤

“We had a wonderful architect and great builders. They absolutely got what we were trying to achieve”
— Tai Schaffler

ABOVE This outdoor dining area is the perfect setting for this amazing vegetarian cook up

LEFT Contrasted by lush greenery, white furniture and accessories add a luminous and uplifting quality to this space

Inspiration Eco Chic

infamous “cedar getters”. But today, Ralph is the centrepiece of this beautiful, emerald-green piece of land — the base for Tai’s home and growing empire.

“My overwhelming memory as a child was my grandparents’ country property in New Zealand,” she says. “There was a historic farmhouse and a beautiful oak tree there. They lived near a river and when I saw this property with Ralph and the creek, it immediately felt like home. For me, having the right environment means I can create in harmony.” Set down a beautiful country road, it’s easy to forget this property is headquarters for an international business. “The whole place here is designed to support a creative process,” adds Tai. The design of the office, the main home and guesthouse are supremely simple and streamlined. “We had a wonderful architect and great builders,” continues Tai. “They absolutely got what we were trying to achieve. This was built before the Glenn Murcutt look really took off and became mainstream. It also helped enormously that this is one of the few pieces of land in the valley that is flat and conducive to the design we had in mind.”

The office building is reminiscent of a luxury Bali-style pavilion and is a hub of activity through the work week, with staff overseeing the day-to-day management of the business. The main house is a light-filled, open space that balances Tai’s love of feminine, tactile designs and Andrew’s classic minimalist aesthetic. The large, two-bedroom guesthouse is a fun poolside pad that is as stylish as it is functional.

Building an empire while based on rural acreage would be hard to reconcile for many but, according to Tai, it’s not just desirable, it’s necessary for her success. “My work is inspired by nature,” she admits. “I like to keep it all as earthy as possible. I was always determined to work in an environment like this and now, because of technology and the ease of travel, it’s no longer essential to live in the city to succeed.” 🌿



Tai’s passion for good design that is also ethically and ecologically responsible can be attributed to decades of travel and living in countries where a healthy environment dictates wellbeing

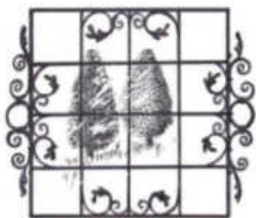




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ALSTONVILLE ALFRESCO

Words Tracey Hordern Photography Mirielle





Luke and Deb Downes have always enjoyed spending time in the countryside. Fourteen years ago, they purchased their stunning property, which is located five minutes from the idyllic village of Alstonville in the Northern Rivers of NSW. The 60-acre farm has 3000 macadamia trees and requires a lot of maintenance and constant work, yet it was a venture the couple were prepared to enthusiastically commit to.

One of the first things the couple did was renovate the original farmhouse. When the property was purchased, "The home was dark, austere and overcrowded", says Deb. To instantly add light, they scaled down the interiors, installed skylights and opened the house up by allowing as much light in as possible and expanded the outdoor living areas.

Today, the house is a charming, functioning family home, with almost every room opening to the alfresco areas and the beautiful gardens that surround the homestead. Set on the top of a crescent, the house has a stunning outlook across gently rolling hills, thousands of macadamia trees and down towards a lake nestled in a valley below.

Set on the top of a crescent,
the house has a
stunning outlook
across gently
rolling hills, thousands
of macadamia trees and down
towards a lake nestled in a
valley below

ABOVE Luke and Deb take a stroll by their beloved lake

FAR RIGHT Entertaining is an important part of the couple's lives and they certainly do it in style



"We love for friends to come over for drinks and dinner," says Deb. "And we really make the most of our downtime here together and most of the time, with the beautiful climate we have, we tend to gather with friends on the porch, decks and in the garden."

"One of our favourite things to do is spend time on our beautiful lake. We have a pontoon and a little tinny, and every Christmas and Australia Day, we have parties there — it's become quite a celebratory Downes tradition."

"Our friends and family all come over. We can fish as we have plenty of bass, yellow belly and silver perch in the lake. The kids especially love being in the boat and making as much noise as they like. It's times like these when we most appreciate living here in the Northern Rivers ... where else could you have your own lake to enjoy with your family and friends?" 🌿

This unique project features fencing made from split timber stacked within custom-built Corten steel frames. christopherowen.com.au
Photography Peter Brennan

FENCED IN

We take a look at the latest
fencing and screening options to suit all
home requirements

Words April Ossington



Whether you want to build a complete border around your home or add a little privacy in your outdoor space, there are plenty of screening and fencing solutions for every style and area.

As the name suggests, privacy screening is perfect for offering seclusion in smaller areas in your outdoor room. Screens are also useful for dividing or sectioning off areas. Perhaps you want to offer a little privacy to an outdoor showering space or cover an unsightly structure like an old garden shed? Many people use screening

to section off their outdoor areas into rooms which can include an entertaining area, alfresco kitchen, pool or utilities area. Privacy screening is also useful for homes that are on a slope or surrounded by high-rise apartments where neighbouring inhabitants can look down on your property.

Choosing a material all comes down to your personal style and the materials present in your outdoor space. However, sustainability is becoming another deciding factor for a lot of people.

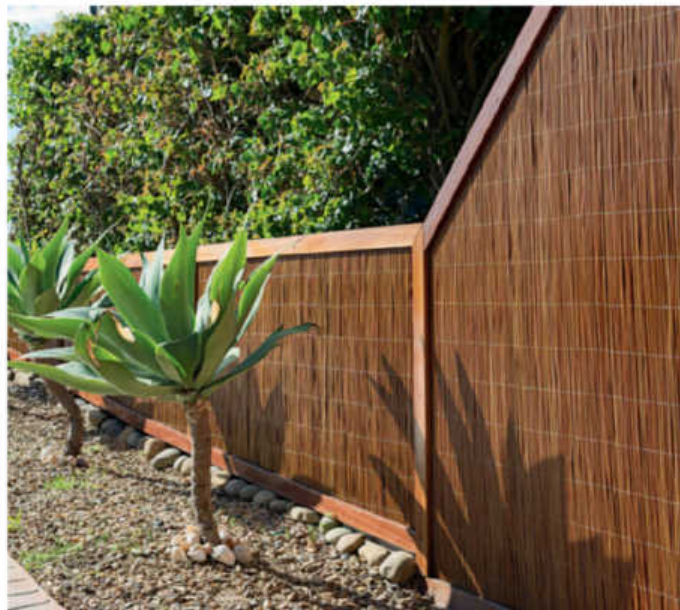
BAMBOO

If you are looking for a natural, eco-friendly way to block out an unsightly view or add privacy to an outdoor entertaining area, bamboo screens are ideal. The more natural the setting, the closer to nature we feel, and bamboo screens blend perfectly with natural surroundings, creating a serene environment in your outdoor room.

A natural fence cladding like Natureed from House of Bamboo is perfect for hiding fences or creating barrier screens around pools, gardens and deck areas. As well as bringing cohesion to an area, it's also useful for adding height to an uneven fence. An ugly shed needed for storage, the carport or the clothesline can all be screened with Natureed cladding.

This natural-looking material blends with a wide range of contemporary architectural and landscaping styles including gardens with tropical, Balinese, oriental, Mediterranean or Australian native themes.

houseofbamboo.com.au



ALUMINIUM

For those who want the warm, natural look of timber without the ongoing maintenance, a wood alternative is timber-look aluminium. This low-maintenance material doesn't require painting, staining or oiling and as there is no timber involved, it won't fade, oxidise, rot, warp, split or crack. Queensland-based company Knotwood manufactures privacy screens and fences made from Australian marine-grade aluminium that is finished to look just like wood. The

material is available in 30 timber-look colours as well as a wide range of powdercoated colours for extra durability. Knotwood aluminium fencing uses a patented concealed fastening system which hides screws and rivets, and as no welding is required, it is easy to install. Knotwood's range of privacy screens can be custom-built depending on your ventilation and privacy requirements.

knotwood.com.au



STEEL AND METAL

Laser-cut screening made from materials including mild steel, stainless steel, galvanised steel, Corten steel and Alucobond is a popular choice for modern landscape designs. Often the metal is oxidised, which gives it that rusted finish to suit contemporary and industrial styles. Providing superior durability, these materials are often available in a powdercoated finish in

a range of vibrant colours. Its ability to be laser-cut gives great flexibility in design and style. Otherwise known as weathering steel, Corten steel is a great material for fencing and screening. It's made from a group of steel alloys that were developed to eliminate the need for painting and form a rust-like appearance if exposed to the weather for several years.



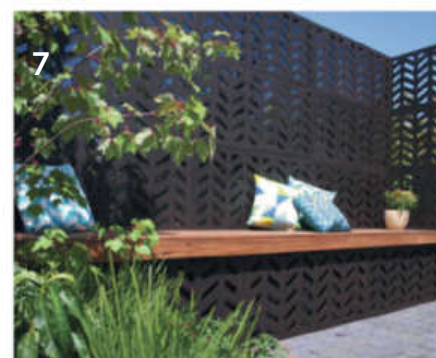
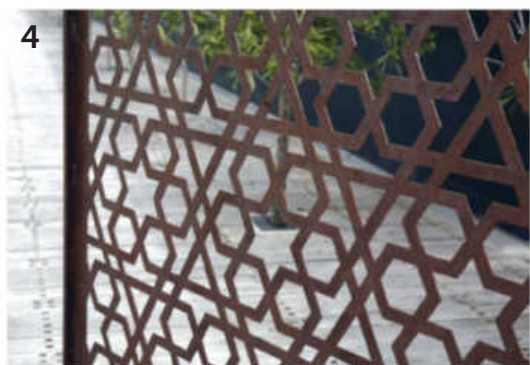
Jasper Rd gate from entanglements.com.au

GABION WALLS

No longer just the domain of civil engineers, the gabion wall is being incorporated into residential sites, bringing numerous advantages. Simply put, a gabion is a cage filled with rocks, concrete or occasionally sand and soil. Gabion retaining walls are a good solution for sloping blocks where draining is important. As they are approximately 30 per cent air, they are able to diffuse water as it travels across your property. The modern, industrial facade of this home on Queensland's Sunshine Coast is complemented by the set of gabion walls that flank the garden's manicured pockets of greenery. Designed by Continuum Landscapes, the walls make for a bold entry. continuumlandscapes.com.au



BRIGHT IDEAS



1 Create that sought-after tropical feeling in your outdoor room with bamboo rod screens. This product is ideal for making new fences, screening for privacy or hiding specific areas. houseofbamboo.com.au **2** These exterior aluminium louvres can be applied at the sides or on top of your outdoor space for complete protection from the elements and privacy. The adjustable tilt design allows you to shut out the sun and wind or let the cool breeze in. newportshutters.com **3** Part of the 90%+ (High Privacy/Blockout) range from Outdeco, the Gondwana design is inspired by the Australian rainforest. Its lines are reminiscent of a cascading waterfall or giant tree trunk. outdeco.com **4** Martin Kellock Pots & Planters offers a range of screens made from laser-cut Corten steel. The chemical composition of Corten steel promotes the early formation of a protective layer of rust when exposed to the elements. It's important, however, to be aware of the material's run-off, which can cause staining to porous surfaces. martinkellockpots.com.au **5** These Paravento side screens by Weinor offer privacy, security and protection from the elements. Available in a wide range of modern colours, they are the ideal for complementing your outdoor awnings. petermeyerblinds.com.au **6** For a unique and contemporary way to add privacy to smaller spaces including patios and terraces, the Tribu privacy screen features weather-resistant polyester with plasticised fibreglass sticks. coshliving.com.au **7** The Herringbone design from Outdeco features a clean geometric pattern for a look that is contemporary and classic. Made from natural brown DecoShield, this screen offers 80 per cent privacy/blockout. outdeco.com **8** This Bamboo Surrounds fencing from House of Bamboo instantly adds warmth to an outdoor space. Featuring a modular design, these environmentally friendly bamboo boards are easy to install and give you a choice of height and space between boards. houseofbamboo.com.au



Everyone should enjoy outside. Look outside. Get outside. Run, walk, meander outside. Sleep outside. Drink and eat outside. Appreciate outside. Play outside. Just be outside. Go back outside. Stay outside. Love outside. Whatever you do...enjoy outside.

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Enjoy outside with Antscapes. antscapes.com.au



GOOD READS

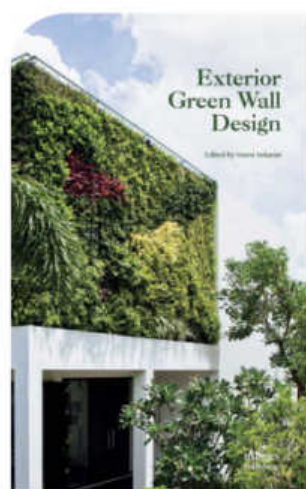
EXTERIOR GREEN WALL DESIGN

EDITED BY VEERA SEKARAN

PUBLISHED BY IMAGES PUBLISHING

\$50

Green walls and their benefits — visual and physical — are more popular than ever as an increasing number of architects and designers look to include them in their projects. The importance of green infrastructure has been recognised by countries all over the world, and as technology progresses, the costs conveniently decrease. *Exterior Green Wall Design* is an informative book through which we learn how well-designed, -constructed and -maintained green walls render cities more sustainable and liveable for the future. In public infrastructure, they can reduce heat, clean the air and increase the city's visual appeal. On a smaller residential scale, the benefits include noise insulation, increased property value and enhanced health and wellbeing. As an essential reference book for those interested in environmental practices and green walls, *Exterior Green Wall Design* features beautiful photos of a variety of commercial and residential buildings that incorporate green walls.



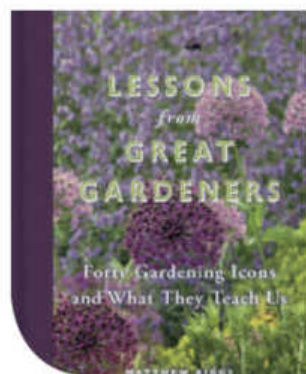
LESSONS FROM GREAT GARDENERS

MATTHEW BIGGS

PUBLISHED BY EXISLE PUBLISHING

\$35

Be inspired to paint with plants. *Lessons from Great Gardeners* is a compilation of 40 of the most influential men and women through time whose passion for gardening has exceeded all else and resulted in spaces that radiate with serenity, innovation, beauty, colour or a combination of the four. Budding horticulturalists and industry professionals alike can garner wisdom from these greats, who have all contributed to the way we view and practise gardening. With the gardeners listed in chronological birthdate order, as opposed to the style or era they represent, the reader can see how garden styles and designs have developed over time and how other art forms have influenced this evolution. Stunning photography is interspersed with botanical illustrations of some of the gardeners' signature plants as stories from their lives and works are revealed.



GREEN, HIDDEN AND ABOVE

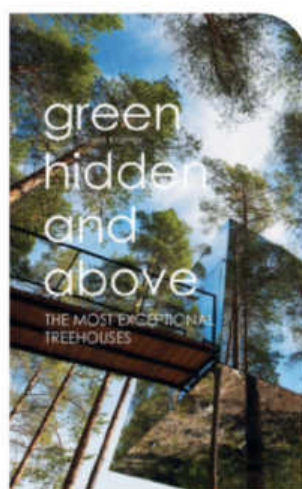
SIBYLLE KRAMER

PUBLISHED BY THAMES & HUDSON

\$70

Far from being reserved solely for our free-spirited children, Sibylle Kramer invites us to experience 65 of the most extraordinary treehouses from around the world. Re-invigorate your senses — and imagination — with these astonishing structures that boast dream-like views and inspire feelings of freedom. Some are suspended between trees, some wrapped

around trunks and others woven into branches, but they are all uniquely different. A far cry from the familiar scenes of our regular day-to-day lives, the most magnificent views imaginable are captured on camera. Used for a range of purposes, from residences to retreats to guest houses and eco hotels, not all installations are deep within forests — some provide an escape in the city itself.



PAUL BANGAY'S GUIDE TO PLANTS

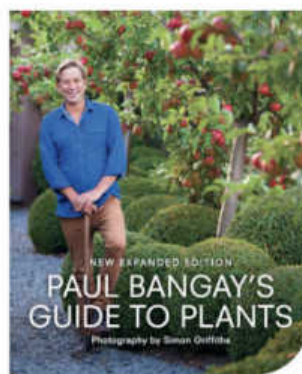
PAUL BANGAY

PUBLISHED BY PENGUIN BOOKS

\$60

Rich with anecdotes and advice he's built up over the years as one of Australia's leading landscape designers, Paul Bangay brings us *Paul Bangay's Guide to Plants* — the perfect companion to *Paul Bangay's*

Garden Design Handbook. Gardens designed by Paul are known for their elegant proportions and considered array of plants, so it's no surprise he considers plants the most important factor when designing a garden. It's not just about knowing what you love, but knowing where it thrives and where it doesn't. Plant selection should consider climatic conditions, positioning, height and spread in maturity and, particularly in our Australian climate, water and drought tolerance. "In most cases, irrigation is just not sustainable, so choosing plants that work with the natural rainfall of the location is often paramount," says Paul. Whether you're creating a small square of greenery in your courtyard or an extended forest-like estate, Paul's advice is practical and worthwhile.



Together as one

Create flow and fusion between your home and outdoor areas

Words John Storch

There's an ongoing trend that revolves around fusing internal and external entertaining spaces, with the two unique areas essentially becoming one. But it's imperative to consider the property as a whole to ensure the concept is cohesive and not disjointed. So how do you create this aesthetic? Here are some top tips to create a home that flows.

A link between indoor and outdoor spaces can be created by using the same architectural styles. For example, a contemporary house will look best with a contemporary pool and cabana, succulent plants and monotone colours. In the cabana, pick up the design lines in the house — be it the gutters, concertinaed doors and windows, or timber types and styles. Consider using the same paving, decking, paint colours, walling types and planting style throughout the project. Similar lighting creates a strong link between areas at night and can also be

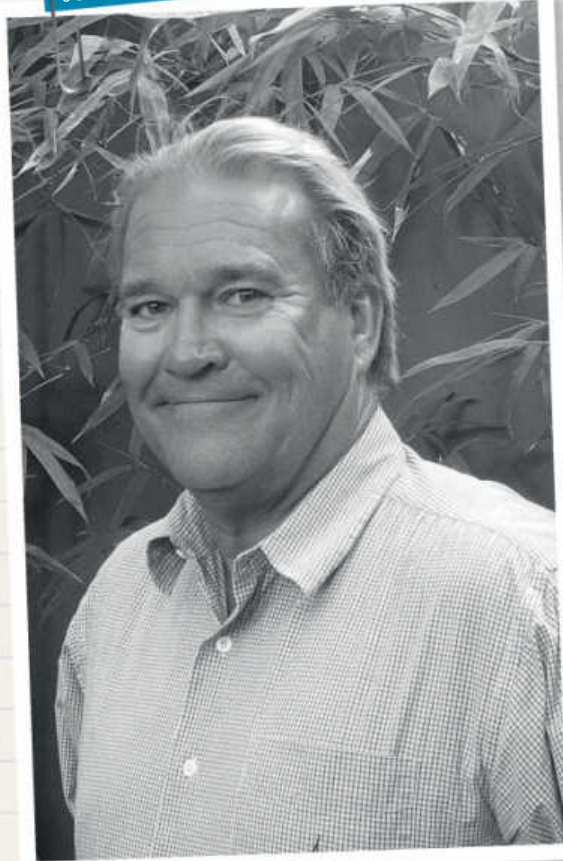


used to define boundaries between the various elements of the home, outdoor room, cabana, pool and garden.

Another great tip for cohesion is to use similar furniture inside and out. Outdoor furniture selection is becoming one of the more important and personal selections of a project and can help organise a space to relate to the home. UV-protected pieces that can withstand sun damage and fabrics with waterproof coatings can maximise the weather resistance of furniture.

A large table placed in an outdoor room, cabana or even externally will evoke an indoor setting and is a great way to make use of your outdoor space. Perfect for gatherings on summer nights, a table made for alfresco dining is an easy way to blend indoors and out. Using similar accessories can be a cost-effective way to merge the two areas.

JOHN STORCH



Accessories incorporating soft furnishings, including cushions and throw rugs with feature homewares such as scented candles, sculptures and art, individualise an indoor-outdoor space and can help integrate your project. 🏡

Five hot tips

1. To ensure the outdoor room appears united with the home, use the same architectural style in the external spaces as inside the house.
2. To create fusion between all elements, use similar paving, decking, paint colours, walling types and planting styles.
3. Similar lighting throughout a project creates a strong link between different spaces.
4. Remove visual and physical barriers between areas, use frameless glass pool fencing and glass concertinaed doors to create a sense of fusion.
5. Use furniture and accessories inside and out that are similar in style.



Outdoor furniture selection is becoming one of the more important and personal selections of a project and can help organise a space to relate to the home



Backyards on a budget

Whether you're a new home buyer, gardening enthusiast or just enjoy a bit of greenery around the home, outdoor spaces have the potential to create a huge dent in your bank account. Matt Leacy, founder of Landart Landscapes, has come up with some handy tips to keep your garden on point without the costly price tag



COMPOSTING

Composting is one way to help the environment while saving money. Compost can provide valuable nutrients for your plants. By composting yourself, you save money and take advantage of your food waste. Also collect fallen leaves and lawn clippings to add to the compost and use them as mulch on the garden. From an aesthetic perspective, a large compost site or bin in the backyard doesn't have to be an eyesore. Hedges, shrubs and burying bins underground can help.

RECYCLE

Clever design can make a feature of recycled garden items — either from your own garden or recycling centre — to help keep garden makeover costs down and to add a rustic, lived-in feel to your green space. Bringing in a garden expert can save you in the long term and inform you about what can and can't be salvaged from your existing garden (including plants and materials). Re-purposing materials can drastically reduce the cost of new work and provide a connection to place.

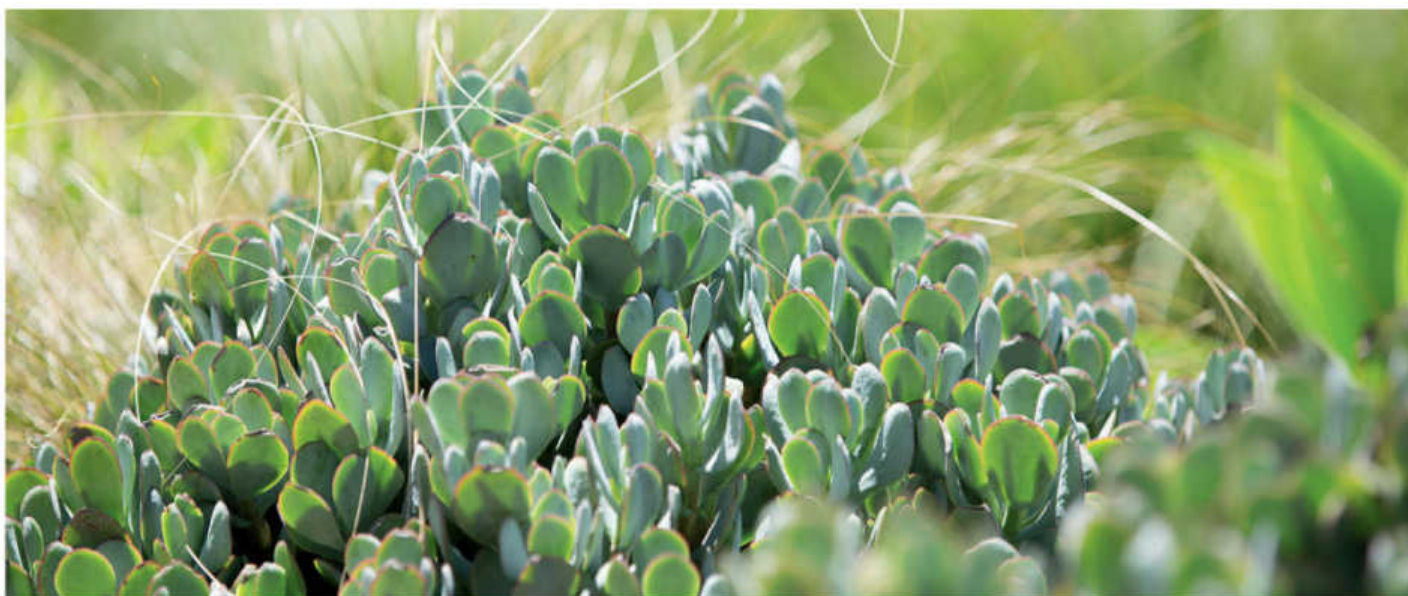
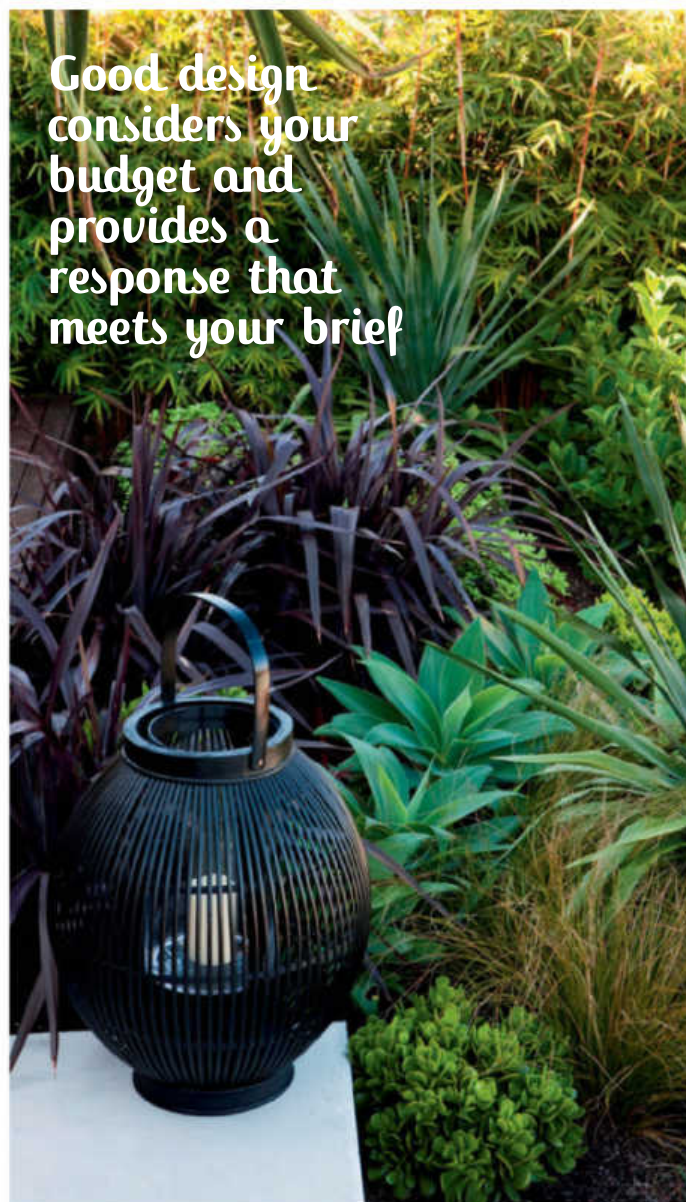


BUDGET

Cost reductions start with the design of the space. Good design considers your budget and provides a response that meets your brief. This is where a design and landscape expert can really help. Landscape designers have suppliers they can call on year-round for plants and industry relationships for all of the building materials. We know how long something will take to build and how much things cost, so bringing in an expert is a good way to stay on budget. Recycling plants and materials, creating your own mulch and getting expert advice on plants and watering programs will all pay off in the end. If drought-tolerant plants aren't chosen or you live in a harsh and dry climate, watering can be quite costly over the long term.

PICK SUITABLE PLANTS

Selecting the correct plants for your garden plays a large role in their future cost and upkeep, and it is essential to choose plants that not only look great, but will also cope with local conditions. A few low-maintenance plants suited for mass planting of large areas are *Beschorneria*, *Echium* and *Westringia*. These work well together, are drought hardy and flower at different times of the year. Combined with various ornamental grasses and succulents, they create an amazing effect without all the fuss. 🌿



Good design
considers your
budget and
provides a
response that
meets your brief

The perfect summer barbecue

When the weather starts to warm up, our thoughts naturally turn to firing up the barbecue

Words Andrea Mead

Outdoor entertaining should be casual, fun and relaxed, however many frazzled hosts will tell you this isn't always the case. Home cooks have tales of charred chops, half-cooked sausages and overcooked vegies, but it doesn't need to be that way. Getting to know your barbecue and keeping it simple are the keys to successful outdoor entertaining.

LOCATION, LOCATION

If your barbecue is tucked away out of sight from the entertaining area, it won't get used to its full potential. Ideally, position your barbecue so it is close to entertaining areas as well as a table and fridge if possible. Indoor and outdoor spaces that flow seamlessly work best, so keep this in mind if you're planning an outdoor kitchen or new entertaining zone.



GET TO KNOW YOUR HOTPLATE

Learn how to work with different temperature settings on your barbecue — not everything needs to be cooked at the maximum heat setting. Likewise, many hotplates will have areas that become very hot and others that carry a more moderate level of heat. The trick is to discover where they are as this will enable you to cook different types of food at the same time. And don't forget to pre-heat your hotplate before use!

MASTER COOKING TIMES

Many meats need to be well cooked, but you certainly don't want them charred or burnt. Start with a high heat to sear steaks, lamb chops, sausages and chicken, then reduce the heat





and cook for a longer time to ensure meat is cooked all the way through and to prevent burning on the outside. With vegetables, less is best.

GIVE IT A BIT OF LOVE

If your barbie has been neglected during the winter, give it a good clean. Scrub the hotplate, check the gas bottles are full and ensure the gas hose and regulator are in good condition. Protect your barbecue from the elements when cooking or when it's not in use — a cover is a great idea.

PRACTISE MAKES PERFECT

Barbecues are meant to be fun and relaxing for everyone, including the cook. Practise and perfect a few favourite recipes rather than trying something new every time you wheel out the barbie. This delicious lemongrass and chilli pork neck satay recipe, developed by Heatlie brand ambassador and 2014

MasterChef runner-up Laura Cassai, is quick, easy and perfect for summer entertaining. Enjoy. 🍴

Andrea Mead owns and manages Heatlie, a producer of quality Australian-made barbecues. She is an avid barbecue cook and outdoor entertainer and fires up her Island Gourmet Elite most weekends for family and friends. heatlie.com.au

Lemongrass and chilli pork neck satay

Serves four

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons fish sauce
- 1½ tablespoons sugar
- 2 lemongrass sticks, bashed and finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, finely diced
- 2 long red chillies, finely diced
- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 500g pork neck, cut into 2cm cubes
- Coriander, Vietnamese mint and lime cheeks to serve

Method

1. Add fish sauce and sugar to a large mixing bowl and mix until the sugar has dissolved. Add the lemongrass, chilli and garlic and stir to combine.
2. Add the pork neck to the marinade and leave to infuse for an hour. Overnight would be best.
3. Place the pork neck cubes on wooden skewers and cook for 1-2 minutes on each side.
4. Serve with herbs and lime cheeks.



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DESIGN IDEAS

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HOLIDAY AT HOME

Imagine having this lavish resort-style swimming pool in your own backyard

This stunning swimming pool, set within a beautifully landscaped garden, was designed to recreate the resort feel the family had so enjoyed during a recent coastal holiday. Designer Sean Lynch of Malibu Pools and Landscapes fulfilled the brief — to give the family a holiday-at-home experience every day — through the clever manipulation of lines and ground levels and the creation of a relaxed, beachy atmosphere.

One of the keys to creating the by-the-beach look was the canny selection of colours. Note how the ocean-blue glass-bead pool interior and cyan-blue glass-tile pool waterline contrast with the white coping and paved pool surrounds to create a timeless look with a coastal flavour. Adding a resort-style flourish, there is a glass mosaic-tiled water wall that draws the eye from the home's entertaining deck.

For ease of use, all of the pool cleaning and operating systems, as well as the garden lighting, work via remote control. For optimum energy efficiency and to achieve an energy-neutral result, all systems are powered by solar energy harvested from the solar panels on the roof of the house. To maximise the family's energy-saving endeavours, the pool and garden are illuminated by energy-efficient, colour-changing LED lights.

Sean also specified the use of the low-maintenance, chemical-free Envirosim sanitation system for this freshwater pool. By not relying on harsh, environmentally toxic chemicals to clean their pool, the owners are doing their bit for a chemical-free environment as well as saving money on pool maintenance.



For more information

Malibu Pools and Landscapes

6 Billan Street, Carina Qld 4152

Phone (07) 3161 8724

Mobile 0414 622 085, Sean Lynch

Email sean@malibupools.com.au

Website malibupools.com.au

Winner of multiple pool industry awards, Queensland-based Malibu Pools and Landscapes was established 35 years ago and is now one of the country's leading pool design and construction companies. Sean has been the managing architect for more than 10 years and his background in environmental architecture and landscape design brings a unique perspective to the company's design and construction process.

Focusing on a limited number of projects each year, Malibu Pools and Landscapes offers a complete pool and landscape package. This begins with an on-site consultation with Sean to discuss the client's needs, the design brief and the environmental issues. A virtual 3D design is then created, allowing every project to be modified and "swum through" before construction starts. 🏊





PRIVACY MATTERS

Explore your creative spirit with one-of-a-kind metal screens from Tombo Design

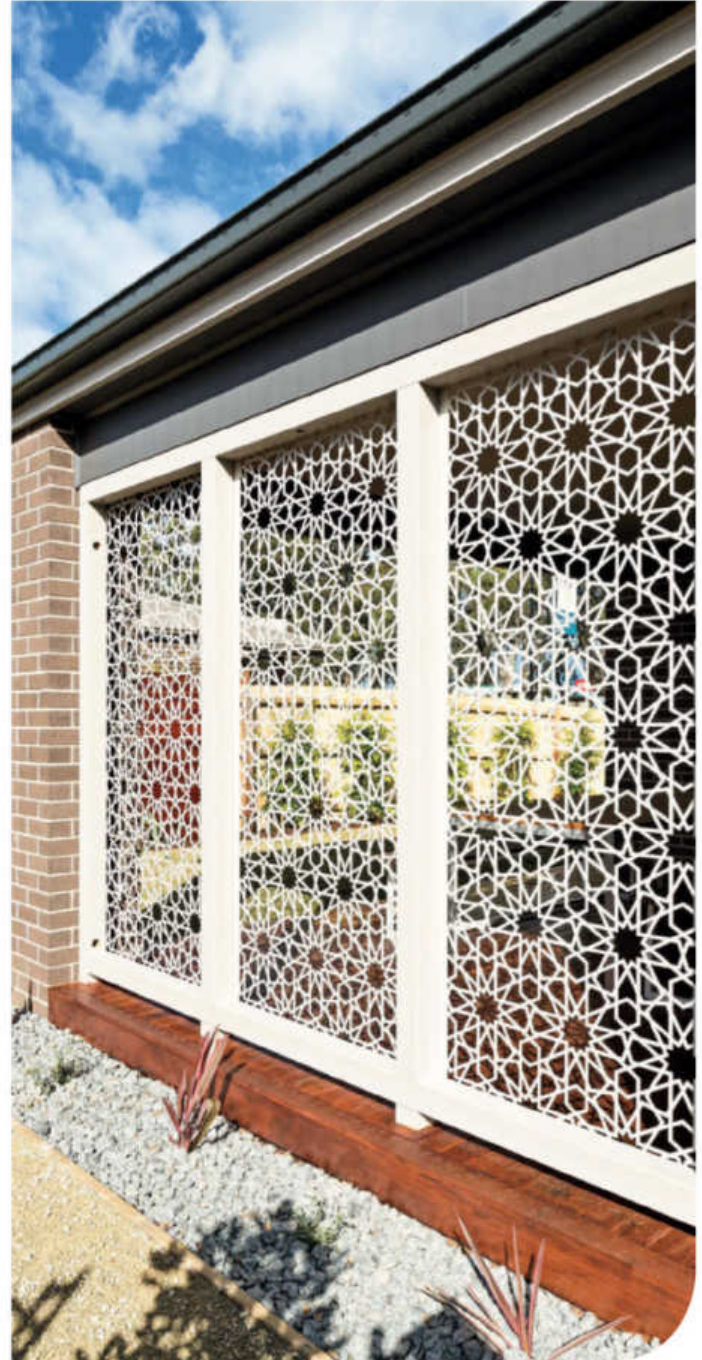
How do you make your outdoor space stand out as something stylish but original? Australians love the concept of indoor-outdoor spaces and each summer their popularity grows.

Melbourne-based company Tombo Design specialises in custom-made decorative metal screens and panels with stockists Australia-wide. In addition to decorative screens, Tombo Design also produces metal wall art, garden decor, fire pits and illuminated bollards. You can match existing decor in whatever style you've selected with pieces available in rusted steel or powder-coated colours.

Tombo Design's decorative screens don't just look pretty, they also serve a purpose. Whether you're looking to create

privacy, disguise walls or camouflage an unsightly view, Tombo Design offers made-to-order screens to suit any design brief. Furthermore, its in-house designer takes the time to listen to clients' wishes so a collaborative outcome can be achieved.

Customer satisfaction is paramount for Tombo Design and with more than 30 years' experience in metalwork and finishing, clients can feel safe knowing their much-loved backyards and hard-earned money are in safe hands. To view the company's ever-evolving range or to find your local stockist, take a look at the Tombo Design website. [🌐](#)



For more information

Tombo Design

Address 2/8 Johnston Court, Dandenong
South Vic 3175

Phone (03) 9793 5500

Email johnp@tombodesign.com.au

Website tombodesign.com.au



SUN SALUTATIONS

As the weather heats up, we tend to spend more time outdoors.
Make yourself comfortable with an awning or sail

We all love digesting the paper over breakfast, long lazy lunches, soaking up the warmth and enjoying the company of friends and family in a sun-drenched backyard. But without the refuge of shade, the sun can become harsh, overbearing and dangerous to our health. To ensure you're making the most of your backyard and alfresco areas, an awning or sail can ensure your outdoor space is enjoyable throughout the day.

The product range from Outrigger Awnings is all-inclusive, from retractable or fixed awnings and sails to carport awnings and outdoor blinds. Whatever you're looking for, they've got you covered. The company's retractable awnings feature a winch, crank or motorised operation system while the fixed awnings can be of a batten, pergola or cantilevered style — as can the carport awnings. To protect against wind, rain and sound, Outrigger's outdoor blinds are available in PVC or shade cloth.

With such a broad-ranging, all-encompassing assortment, designer and owner Andrew Perry makes a point of liaising directly with each customer to ensure they don't become overwhelmed and to determine if the designs chosen are suited to their personal needs. Products are then fabricated in the company's Sydney factory and installed by employees to ensure consistency in quality throughout the process.

Located in Brookvale, Sydney, Outrigger Awnings can accommodate installations within the Greater Sydney region or further afield as required. Alternatively, through detailed drawings and discussions, Andrew can design and manufacture awnings in Sydney and ship them to the client.

The modern outdoor lounge and dining area is getting increasingly sophisticated and is now an entertaining area for all seasons, with heating, lighting and music. Following suit, awnings and sails from Outrigger are an architectural addition to the home, creating a visual accent as well as practical benefits. 🏡



For more information

Outrigger Awnings

Address Unit 1, 2 Powells Road, Brookvale Sydney NSW

Phone (02) 9905 8473

Email info@outriggerawnings.com.au

Website outriggerawnings.com.au



SHEDDING LIGHT

Add a bespoke quality to your landscape design to enhance the space and your experience

There's no denying Australia's affection for a beautiful backyard, and as research keeps telling us, it's also integral to our health and wellbeing. Yet with so many backyard ideas on the market, you can be hard-pressed to find something truly unique — and there's nothing worse than a space that doesn't reflect your personality and taste.

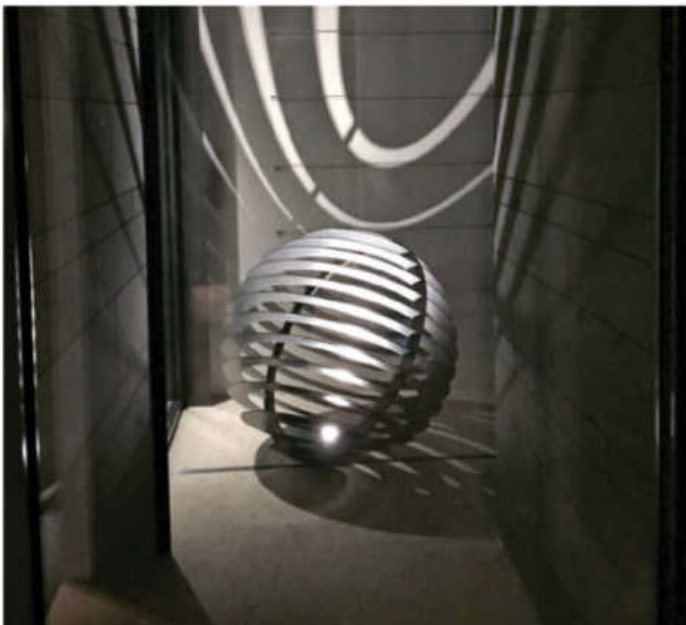
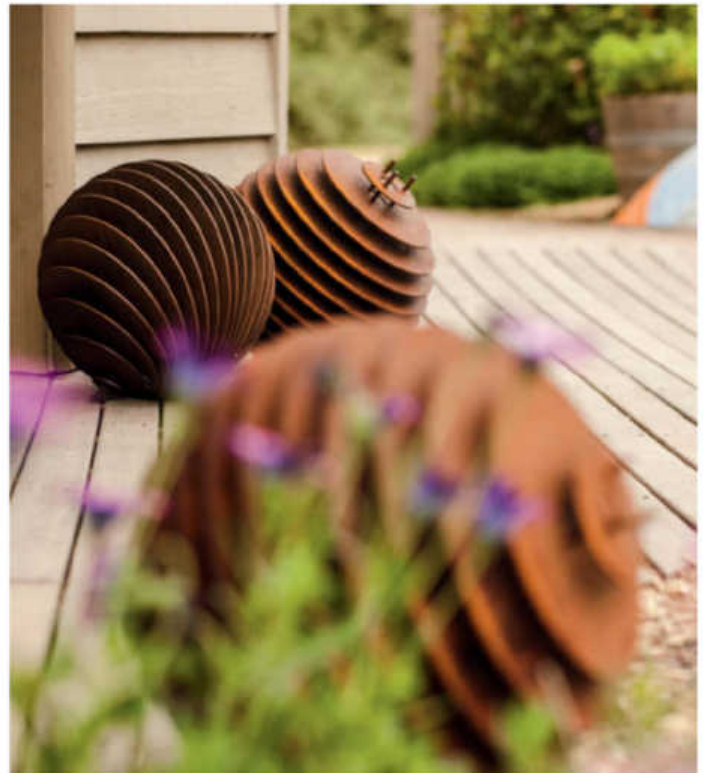
Enter Matt Hill. His bespoke landscape sculptures hint at something intrinsically Japanese, which can be explained by his five-month-turned-seven-year stint dodging visas and snowboarding in northern Japan. Years passed, and Matt has since returned to Australia bringing a raft of fresh ideas with an innovative flair and unparalleled talent.

His company, Matt Hill Projects, specialises in landscape lighting and sculptures, predominantly in — though not limited to — spheres and cubes. Each piece is made to order so you won't find a backlog of sculptures sitting on a shelf ready for sale. This ensures his clients get the unique, bespoke piece

missing from their outdoor areas. However, for Matt, the underlying concept behind his work is to create something that will capture your imagination during the day and, lit up by 12-volt waterproof LED lights, ignite it come nightfall.

With such unique and individual sculptures, Matt has truly created a niche market for himself. He focuses on simple, geometric shapes as well as lighting and shadows to add drama to his pieces. Having such personal work displayed in the homes of many, it's no surprise Matt delivers and installs his sculptures himself to ensure the integrity of the space.

He has an array of accomplishments under his belt so you know his work is worth the investment. In 2013, his Simple Sphere project won Best Small Sculpture at the Albert Park College Art Show in Melbourne, and last year he was invited to be the feature artist for Sculpture at the Mt Eliza Art and Design Show, Melbourne. Matt Hill is an artist/sculptor/designer, but according to him, he "just likes to make things". 🎨



For more information

Matt Hill Projects

Phone 0406 656 387

Email info@matthillprojects.com

Website matthillprojects.com



MIX AND MATCH

A high-quality modular outdoor kitchen system for the discerning homeowner

Alfresco living is now firmly part of the Australian lifestyle. After all, what's better than having friends and family over for dinner on the deck or having lunch by the pool? And at the heart of every modern alfresco living area is a fully-equipped outdoor kitchen.

My Alfresco specialises in the supply of modular outdoor kitchen solutions. Offering a wide array of top-of-the-range products, including barbecues, barbecue hoods, glass-back bar fridges, pizza ovens and even kitchen sinks and taps, MyAlfresco's modular outdoor kitchen systems make it possible for you to design a complete package, tailored to meet your individual needs.

With My Alfresco outdoor kitchens you have a choice of four colours for the cabinetry and a vast selection of materials for the benchtops. The range of modules is also impressive, ensuring you can mix and match your way to the ideal configuration.

The materials used in the construction of the cabinets and benchtops are backed by a 10-year outdoor-use warranty, a unique feature in this field. You also have peace of mind knowing that My Alfresco outdoor kitchens are fully weatherproof and won't be harmed by regular UV exposure.

However, creating the perfect outdoor kitchen isn't just about cabinetry and cooking appliances. Most outdoor kitchens live next to an alfresco dining area so creating a comfortable outdoor entertaining space is vital. With this in mind, My Alfresco offers outdoor heating solutions too. At My Alfresco, which offers nation-wide distribution, customer care is a priority. As part of this commitment, the company offers a complete installation service and a quick turnaround time from receipt of order to manufacture and installation. 



For more information

My Alfresco 40-44 Mark Anthony Drive,
Dandenong South Vic 3175

Phone (03) 9768 0823

Mobile 0417 482 014

Website myalfresco.com





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We love the flexibility of shutters. Whether it's keeping out of the sun or letting in the breeze, a good set of shutters changes your verandah from an outdoor area to an outdoor room. They help bring a sense of permanence to a space while blurring the boundary between outside and in. That's what makes shutters good, so why not make them better?

Knotwood's shutters carry all the innate advantages and benefits a well-designed shutter system should. The system fits any size, from a small gazebo to a huge outdoor entertainment suite. The uniquely designed frame allows Knotwood's shutters to accommodate a huge variety of hardware options. From sliding and bi-folding panels to fixed blade or adjustable, there's room in the Knotwood system to do it all.

The true advantage you get with Knotwood shutters is the finish; the company is known for its high-quality wood-look imaging process which allows you to get the best of both timber and aluminium. Knotwood shutters are available in more than 30 wood-look colours and a huge range of standard powder-coat colours as well.

Although they look like timber, they are made from high-quality Australian aluminium. This material's natural strength, durability and low-maintenance marries perfectly with the warm look and feel of timber.

This fusion of form and function means you can have the look of timber without any of the time-consuming maintenance, even in areas prone to corrosion from salt or sand. The fact that Knotwood is made from metal means you won't miss out on having the beautiful shutters you've always wanted. Shutters that look great without the maintenance sounds alright to us! 🌿



For more information

Knotwood

Phone 1300 566 896 (1300 KNOTWOOD)

Email sales@knotwood.com.au

Website knotwood.com.au



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“Experience, service and value is our difference”



SITTING PRETTY

With custom-made cushions you can totally transform any outdoor space

Dressing up your outdoor furniture with cushions made from beautiful fabrics can make all the difference to the look and feel of your outdoor living space. In fact, it's the perfect way to give a deck, patio or courtyard an instant makeover and establish an outdoor room feel.

Choosing specially made, quality outdoor fabrics is essential, as is choosing the right colours and patterns. While you can buy off-the-shelf cushions, for the best result you need a customised solution.

"Having new cushions custom-made to suit your personal style and your outdoor decorating theme is the best way to create a cosy, harmonious space that you just can't wait to relax in, a space you can feel proud of when entertaining family and friends. It's also a great way to get that hotel-at-home look so many people want," says Sam Rogers of Cushion Factory, a company that specialises in custom-made cushions.

Cushion Factory can create outdoor cushions of any shape, size or style and you have an amazing choice of fabrics, colours and designs. The company stocks only the best-quality fabrics, such as the Sunbrella high-performance range and the latest releases from the Warwick outdoor collection.

Cushions can be made completely weather-resistant by using a fadeproof fabric and waterproof, quick-drying foam, so leaving your cushions outside 365 days a year is no problem. And, of course, all products are backed by a full guarantee.

To make the selection process as easy as possible, all fabrics are shown on the website, but should you need to see and touch the materials yourself, free fabric samples can be arranged. Once you've placed your order, expect a two-to-three-week turnaround and there is a flat delivery fee of \$35 to most metropolitan areas.

"With a proven track record in the creation of durable cushions with designer flair, Cushion Factory staff always strive to exceed customer expectations, whether it's for a residential or commercial project," says Sam. "Some of our most prestigious commercial jobs have been for luxury resorts at Cable Beach Club in Broome, Western Australia, and Hayman Island Resort in Queensland." 🏡



For more information

Cushion Factory

Phone 1300 448 297

Email sales@cushionfactory.com.au

Website cushionfactory.com.au



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THE ESSENTIALS

Your design guide

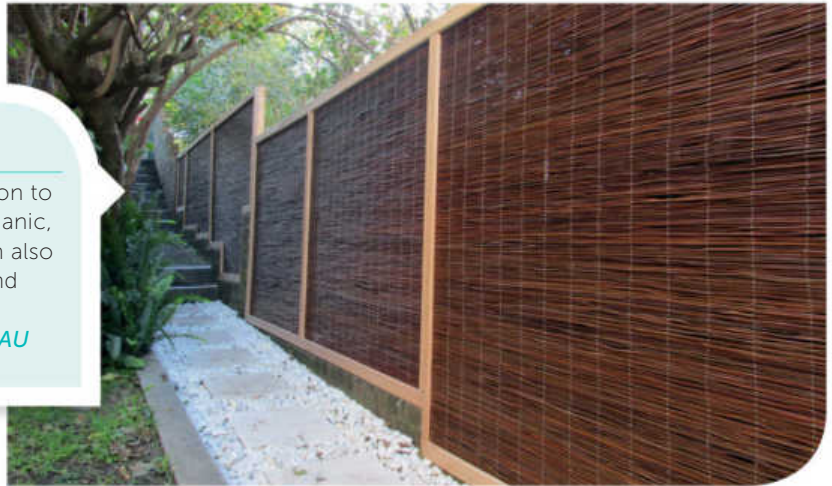


The Essentials

WALL STORIES

House of Bamboo's Natureed is the perfect solution to clad unsightly fences and walls to establish an organic, natural and cohesive texture in your garden. It can also be used as shading or as a barrier screening around pools, gardens and deck areas.

[HOUSE OF BAMBOO | HOUSEOFBAMBOO.COM.AU](http://HOUSEOFBAMBOO.COM.AU)



ENDLESS SUMMERS

The Illum collection features smooth transitions from soft to crisp lines, while robust aluminium is used like sculpted wood. Functionality is key in the series yet doesn't compromise style or, more importantly, comfort. The chairs come with a soft, curved back support and provide lasting comfort. The tables are available in two widths — a thinner 71-cm-wide option for small patios and balconies and the standard 98-cm width.

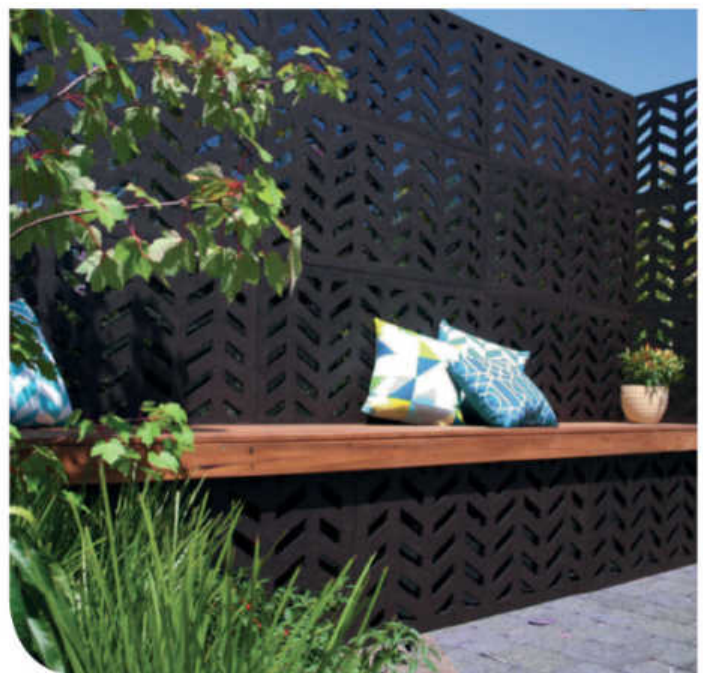
[COSH LIVING | COSHLIVING.COM.AU](http://COSHLIVING.COM.AU)



ON-TREND SCREENING

Herringbone from OUTDECO is a unique play on an artisan pattern that is contemporary yet respectfully traditional. The options of diagonal, diamond-shaped or chevron patterns are evocative of artisanal architecture from Europe, the Middle East and Asia. These patterns break up large imposing rectangular surfaces and offer a complementary effect to organic foliage. The patterns have been refined to an 80 per cent privacy level and have a mid-range visual impact for artistic effect.

[OUTDECO | OUTDECO.COM](http://OUTDECO.COM)



SUSTAINABLE SCREENING

OUTDECO uses a unique material for its outdoor screens that sequesters carbon to produce a negative carbon footprint. Made from 97 per cent organic matter, mainly sustainably sourced Australian hardwood, the products are a true example of how we can enrich and give back to the environment we seek such comfort and recreation from. Seen here is the Decoshield natural finish in the Gondwana pattern. The company's specially formulated treatment, unique to OUTDECO, gives longer UV stability. It also offers the option to allow a gentle rustic weathering effect, with zero maintenance, or to be rejuvenated over time with decking stain or sealing products.

[OUTDECO |](#)
[OUTDECO.COM](#)



HAVE A JUMP START

A relatively new addition to Australian backyards comes in the form of round in-ground trampolines. They blend into your garden and are made with a built-in retaining wall so installation can happen in less than a day for minimal cost. These trampolines come in four sizes and have the option of an enclosure. As the exclusive supplier of these in-ground gems, Oz Trampolines is offering free delivery Australia-wide.

[OZ TRAMPOLINES | OZTRAMPOLINES.COM.AU](#)

DOWN TO EARTH

The Baked Earth range from Martin Kellock Pots and Planters comprises handmade, landscape-sized classic terracotta pots made by an Italian company for the European market and are perfectly suited for Mediterranean-style gardens. Complete with the odd artisanal irregularity and available in either mocha or terracotta, these pots have loads of character to give a substantially rustic feel to your garden and will age beautifully over many years.

[MARTIN KELLOCK POTS & PLANTERS |](#)
[MARTINKELLOCKPOTS.COM.AU](#)



COOK UP A STORM

Stylish, hard-wearing and Australian-made, Heatlie's Island Gourmet Elite is the ideal choice for your outdoor kitchen. The stainless-steel unit comes fully assembled and can be installed directly into any type of benchtop, including timber and laminate. When it comes to cooking, Heatlie's solid-steel hotplate and steel ribbon burners eliminate hot and cold spots, preventing charring and ensuring food is cooked evenly. Hard-wearing, easy to clean and with a built-in flame-failure safety device, Heatlie barbecues are available in LPG or natural gas. A roasting hood and cabinet are also available.

[HEATLIE ENGINEERING | HEATLIE.COM.AU](#)



BONUS MAGAZINES WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE

Creative Australian Living



The new-look *Backyard* is the magazine for those who don't just dream of an amazing garden, they want to get out there and make it happen. If the backyard is where you gather with family and friends, if you want to do more in your backyard, be that build a garden bed or lay some paving, and if you want to get your kids involved too, *Backyard* is what you need.

In the first new-look edition we show you how to turn toilet rolls and newspaper into seedling pots, provide step-by-step instructions for building raised straw-bale garden beds, and give you plenty of how-to advice for building decks, laying paving, establishing a vertical garden and installing turf. We also take a look at two young families who have created flourishing edible gardens, and open the gates of six professionally designed gardens, giving you plenty of inspiration for your own backyard makeover.



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